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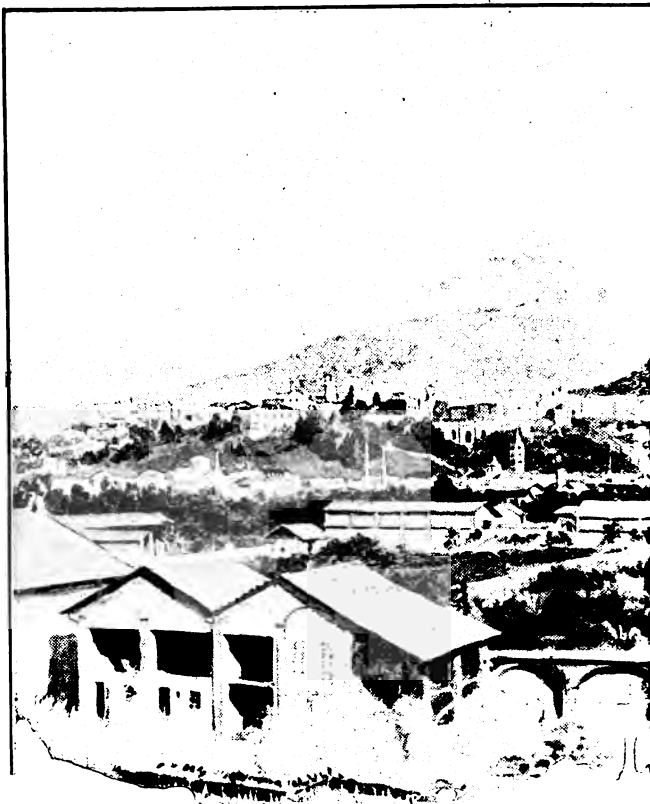
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PAN



BIELLA



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to the Valleys of the  
**BIELLESE REGION**

TO THE SOUTH OF MONTE ROSA

by

Pia Padovani and Emilio Gallo



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Turin 1900

TO THE MEMORY  
OF MY BELOVED BROTHER  
UMBERTO PADOVANI  
DEVOTED TO WORK AND TRUTH  
OF NOBLE THOUGHTS  
WHO STILL YOUNG  
WAS CALLED AWAY FROM HIS FAMILY  
FOR WHOM HE LIVED  
I DEDICATE THIS SHARE  
OF MY WORK



## *To the reader.*

..... two distinct ends were to be accomplished in doing this. It was, indeed, absolutely necessary that such eminences should be created, in order to fit the earth in any wise for human habitation; for without mountains the air could not be purified, nor the flowing of the rivers sustained, and the earth must have become for the most part plain, or stagnant marsh. . . . . To fill the thirst of the human heart for the beauty of God's working—to startle its lethargy with the deep and pure agitation of astonishment,—are their higher missions.

JOHN RUSKIN, *Modern Painters*.

*During fifty years I have perhaps accomplished two hundred times the distance between Novara and Santhià, on the main line Milan-Turin, but I never remember having been tempted to cast a glance towards the south and the rice-fields, when I looked out of the railway carriage. I have always felt a predilection, a great allure-ment to contemplate the grand crested wall towards the north. While I write, I feel that mysterious sense of magical attraction wrought upon me and upon many travellers by the broad snowy ridges which, from that*

*point of the journey, present themselves to the traveller and appear from behind the long Alpine amphitheatre. They suggest something poetical and sublime, they betray a part of the secrets which are hidden in that intricate system of hillocks, hills, plateaux, Alps and Pre-alps that hem in the plain, protecting it from the cold winds and feeding it, during the summer months, with their clear torrents flowing down from hidden valleys.*

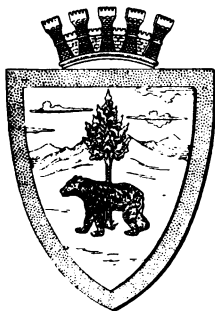
*That portion of land, descending from Monte Rosa towards the plain and stretching to the south, is as yet not much known to travellers, who, generally follow the crowded beaten tracks. I only remember the Caucasian traveller W. Freshfield Douglas, who stopped for a year at Bioglio and Miss Lynn Lynton five years at Zumaglia, where, in a fresh and quiet atmosphere, they wrote their successful books.*

*The authors of this Guide, signorina PIA PADOVANI and signor EMILIO GALLO, are of opinion that, telling the English people in English that there is "a quiet nook out of the way", those untiring travellers will at last know that the fine Biellese region exists and will visit it. The authors hope to render a service to the reader, telling the English people in English that there is an Alpine, easily reached place, as clean as any Swiss region — green and fresh even in the month of August, as quiet as the Canton of the Grisons... And I think that they are right: in the valleys of the Biellese there is comfort enough to make one like the place, without being too fashionable to put one to inconvenience.*

*The details given in this book will awaken that personal interest in the things we saw: the things we saw will create that esthetic pleasure of sweet rest, which one seeks in an Alpine country, inhabited but not crowded, that rest which one seeks on the fresh mountain chastely adorned with the flowers of the green pasture-lands.*

*9<sup>th</sup> May 1900.*

D. VALLINO  
Mayor of Biella.





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*Alpe* = Alpine shepherds'hut.

*Teggie* = Cluster of Alpine huts — word used in the valleys of Andorno and Sessera.

*Bocchetta* }  
*Colle* } = Alpine pass.  
*Valico* }

*Frazione* } Cluster of houses, forming a portion of a  
*Borgata* } chief village.

*Punta* = Mountain.

*Cima* = Mountain of not so prominent a form.

*Piano* = Level place in the mountain — Sometimes also the "Alpi," which rise above the "piano," are called so, as *Pian d'Irogha* — *Pian di Gé*.

*Ponte* = Bridge.

*Baraggia* = Barren place.

*Piazza* = Square.

*Piazzetta* = Small square.

# Arrivals at Biella

|         |           |                      |                     |                     |                         |                        |                       |                       |   |
|---------|-----------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Milano  | dep.      | Om.                  | Dir.                | Om.                 | Dir.                    | Om.                    | Dir.                  | Acc.                  | Treno diretto = ordinary express<br>Treno omnibus = slow train<br>Treno accelerato = faster than<br>the treno omnibus.<br>Express fares are ten per<br>cent higher than ordinary fares,<br>with additional ten per cent. Go-<br>vernment Tax on fares for 19<br>miles upward. |
| Santhià | arr.      | 1,20<br>5,45         | 7,10<br>8,56        | 5,30<br>9,44        | 13,15<br>15,4           | 16,—<br>17,52          | Dir.<br>Om.           | 17,50<br>20,32        |   |
| Torino  | P.N. dep. | Acc.                 | Dir.                | Om.                 | Dir.                    | Acc.                   | Om.                   | Dir.                  |   |
| Santhià | P.S. arr. | 4,35<br>4,53<br>6,20 | 6,45<br>7,—<br>8,18 | 8,45<br>9,—<br>9,55 | 11,10<br>11,31<br>13,24 | 13,—<br>13,15<br>14,12 | 17,45<br>18,6<br>20,7 | 20,—<br>20,15<br>21,7 |   |
| Santhià | dep.      | 6,28                 | 9,4                 | 10,4                | 14,50                   | 18,8                   |                       | 21,14                 |   |
| Biella  | arr.      | 7,24                 | 10,—                | 11,—                | 15,46                   | 19,4                   |                       | 22,10                 |   |

## Departures from Biella

|         |           |      |       |       |       |       |       |       |  |
|---------|-----------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--|
| Biella  | dep.      | 5,—  | 8,—   | 8,52  | 13,20 | 17,—  | 19,40 |       |  |
| Santhià | arr.      | 5,48 | 8,48  | 9,40  | 14,8  | 17,48 | 20,28 |       |  |
| Santhià | dep.      | Om.  | Dir.  | Om.   | Dir.  | Om.   | Acc.  | Dir.  |  |
| Torino  | P.S. arr. | 5,55 | 9,2   | 9,53  | 15,9  | 17,57 | 20,36 | 22,3  |  |
|         | P.N. arr. | 8,8  | 10,6  | 11,55 | 16,5  | 17,38 | 22,32 | 22,55 |  |
|         | P.N. arr. | 8,30 | 10,20 | 12,16 | 16,20 | 18,—  | 22,53 | 23,10 |  |
| Santhià | dep.      | Acc. | Dir.  | Om.   | Dir.  | Acc.  | Dir.  |       |  |
| Milano  | arr.      | 6,23 | 10,—  | 13,31 | 14,17 | 18,5  | 20,13 | 21,11 |  |
|         |           | 9,3  | 12,12 | 17,30 | 16,8  | 21,5  | 21,30 | 23,5  |  |

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# BIELLA — COSSATO — VALLE MOSSO

| Sunday, Monday<br>and Thursday |      |      |          | Sunday only<br>to 30th Sept. |       |
|--------------------------------|------|------|----------|------------------------------|-------|
| Santhià-Biella .               | arr. | 7,24 | 10 a. 11 | 15,46                        | 19,4  |
| Biella . . . .                 | dep. | 7,43 | 11,10    | 16,6                         | 19,26 |
| Cossato . . .                  | arr. | 8,24 | 11,50    | 16,47                        | 20,7  |
| Valle Mosso .                  | "    | 9,—  | 12,21    | 17,18                        | 20,43 |
|                                |      |      |          |                              | 23,44 |

# BIELLA — ANDORNO — BALMA

|                  |      |      | Sunday, Monday<br>and Thursday | Sunday only<br>to 30th Sept. |       |       |
|------------------|------|------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Santhià-Biella . | arr. | 7,24 | 10 a. 11                       | 15,46                        | 19,4  | 22,10 |
| Biella . . . .   | dep. | 7,43 | 11,10                          | 16,6                         | 19,26 | 22,26 |
| Andorno (Bagni)  | arr. | 8,24 | 11,49                          | 16,47                        | 20,7  | 23,7  |
| Balma . . . .    | "    | 8,44 | 12,8                           | 17,7                         | 20,27 | 23,27 |

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|                          | To 15th Sept.<br>inclusive |      | From<br>16th Sept. |       | Sunday only<br>to 30th Sept. |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|------|--------------------|-------|------------------------------|
| Santhià-Biella . . . . . | arr.                       | 7,24 | 10 a. 11           | 15,46 | 19,4                         |
| Biella . . . . .         | dep.                       | 7,45 | 11,12              | 16,6  | 19,28                        |
| Occhieppo inf. . . . .   | arr.                       | 8,4  | 11,33              | 17,48 | 19,58                        |
| Mongrando . . . . .      | "                          | 8,21 | 11,50              | 18,5  | 20,15                        |

# VALLE-MOSSO — COSSATO — BIELLA

|                   |             | Sunday, Monday<br>and Thursday |       | Sunday, Monday<br>and Thursday |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------|
| Valle Mosso . . . | <i>dep.</i> | 6,—                            | 9,30  | 13,30                          |
| Cossato . . .     | "           | 6,30                           | 10,4  | 14,—                           |
| Biella . . .      | <i>arr.</i> | 7,15                           | 10,45 | 14,41                          |
| Biella-Santhià .  | <i>dep.</i> | 8 a. 8,52                      | 13,20 | 17,—                           |
|                   |             |                                |       | 17,—                           |
|                   |             |                                |       | 17,55                          |
|                   |             |                                |       | 18,29                          |
|                   |             |                                |       | 19,10                          |
|                   |             |                                |       | 19,40                          |

# BALMA — ANDORNO — BIELLA

|                  |             | Sunday, Monday<br>and Thursday |       | Sunday, Monday<br>and Thursday |
|------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------|
| Balma . . .      | <i>dep.</i> | 6,13                           | 9,—   | 12,18                          |
| Andorno (Bagni)  | "           | 6,33                           | 9,19  | 12,34                          |
| Biella . . .     | <i>arr.</i> | 7,15                           | 9,57  | 13,11                          |
| Biella-Santhià . | <i>dep.</i> | 8 a. 8,52                      | 13,20 | 13,20                          |
|                  |             |                                |       | 17,—                           |
|                  |             |                                |       | 18,8                           |
|                  |             |                                |       | 18,27                          |
|                  |             |                                |       | 19,5                           |
|                  |             |                                |       | 19,40                          |

# MONGRANDO — OCCHIEPPO — BIELLA

|                  |             | To 16th Sept.<br>inclusive |      | From<br>16th Sept. | From<br>16th Sept.<br>to 30th Sept. |       |
|------------------|-------------|----------------------------|------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Mongrando . . .  | <i>dep.</i> | 6,50                       | 8,30 | 12,40              | 15,10                               | 18,30 |
| Occhieppo . . .  | "           | 7,8                        | 8,48 | 12,58              | 15,28                               | 18,33 |
| Biella . . .     | <i>arr.</i> | 7,24                       | 9,—  | 13,14              | 15,54                               | 19,5  |
| Biella-Santhià . | <i>dep.</i> | 8 a. 8,52                  |      | 13,20              | 17,—                                | 19,40 |
|                  |             |                            |      |                    |                                     | 18,15 |
|                  |             |                            |      |                    |                                     | 18,33 |
|                  |             |                            |      |                    |                                     | 19,5  |
|                  |             |                            |      |                    |                                     | 20,30 |
|                  |             |                            |      |                    |                                     | 20,48 |
|                  |             |                            |      |                    |                                     | 21,—  |

## PRICES

|                                  |    | 1st cl. | 2nd cl. |
|----------------------------------|----|---------|---------|
| Biella-Occhieppo inf. and vicev. | L. | 0,25    | 0,20    |
| " Mongrando                      | "  | 0,60    | 0,40    |
| " Cossato                        | "  | 0,95    | 0,65    |
| " Valle inf. Mosso               | "  | 1,75    | 1,15    |
| " Andorno (Bagni)                | "  | 0,80    | 0,55    |
| " Balma                          | "  | 1,20    | 0,80    |

### Electric Cable-Tram Biella-Piazzo.

Departure every 5 minutes.

Fare: 10 cent. up — 5 cent. down.

### Prices of ordinary tickets from and to Biella

« Tassa di bollo » five cent.

| STATIONS           | ORDINARY TRAINS |         |         | MAIL TRAINS |         |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------|---------|-------------|---------|
|                    | 1st Cl.         | 2nd Cl. | 3rd Cl. | 1st Cl.     | 2nd Cl. |
| Santhià . . . .    | 3,40            | 2,55    | 1,70    | —           | —       |
| Torino } P. N. . . | 10,30           | 7,35    | 4,85    | 10,95       | 7,85    |
| } P. S. . .        | 9,70            | 6,95    | 4,50    | 10,35       | 7,35    |
| Vercelli . . . .   | 5,75            | 4,20    | 2,80    | 5,95        | 4,35    |
| Novara . . . .     | 8,30            | 6,—     | 3,90    | 8,80        | 6,35    |
| Milano . . . .     | 13,95           | 9,95    | 6,45    | 15,05       | 10,70   |

### Returns tickets from and to Biella

« Tassa di bollo » five cent.

| STATIONS           | RETURNS TICKETS |         |         |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------|---------|
|                    | 1st Cl.         | 2nd Cl. | 3rd Cl. |
| Santhià . . . .    | 6,15            | 4,65    | 3,10    |
| Torino } P. N. . . | 16,35           | 11,80   | 7,45    |
| } P. S. . .        | 15,50           | 11,20   | 7,10    |
| Vercelli . . . .   | 9,85            | 6,15    | 4,20    |
| Novara . . . .     | 13,40           | 9,70    | 6,20    |
| Milano . . . .     | 21,40           | 15,35   | 9,65    |

**Cheap 15 day tickets  
Biella to Santhià and back**  
issued to passengers provided  
with circular tickets on the  
main-lines.  
1st Cl. L. 4,10 - 2nd Cl. L. 3,10.

# THE BIELLESE

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## *The region.*

From the lofty summits of Monte Rosa a mountainous chain stretches towards the South, dividing the valleys of Gressoney and of Sesia. At about twenty kilometers from its origin, namely at the **Punta dei Tre Vescovi** (Peak of the three Bishops) a branch extends towards the East, **Monte Bo** being the highest peak (7.800 f. a. s. l.).

This branch bounds the valley of the Sessera — the extremity of the Biellese, as far as the junction of the Sessera and the Sesia.

The principal chain extends towards the South-West, its highest mountains being **Monte Cresto**, **Monte Mars** and **Mombarone**, and from the foot of this mount stretches the long regular line of the murex hills of the Serra as far as Lake Livorno.

The so-called Biellese region is that amphitheatre formed by the two mountainous chains above mentioned, from which many other branches spread on all sides.

### *The town of Biella.*

In the centre of this amphitheatre and on the last slopes of the Pre-Alps the town of Biella is picturesquely situated. Here the three important valleys of the Elvo, Oropa, and Cervo meet.

The waters of the Strona, Sessera and of other minor torrents flow more to the East, setting many a manufactory in motion by their noisy courses.

### *The climate.*

Everywhere the climate is healthy and pleasant, for the very mountains, which during the winter are a bulwark against the cold northern winds, bring fresh and invigorating breezes during the summer months.

### *Cultivation.*

The lower part of the Biellese is very fertile and well cultivated.

The wine-growing districts of Valdengo, Lessona, etc. produce excellent qualities of wine.

In the middle zone people grow fruit-gardens and the chestnut-tree abounds everywhere.

The higher the traveller ascends, the more scarce the vegetation becomes, until one only finds pasture-land and at last the rocky and bare mountain.

### *The inhabitants.*

The Biellese is the most populous region of Italy, and as it is in the greatest part mountainous and barren, the inhabitants are obliged to seek other means of earning their livelihood. — The inhabitant of the Biellese is strong-minded and industrious. The

great statesman, Quintino Sella, too severely just a man for being suspected to flatter his native county, in a Congress of Naturalists in 1864, spoke of his fellow-citizens as follows: "The love for work and the perseverance in carrying out schemes, the disposition to thriftiness and a somewhat boldness in enterprises, are (allow me to say) very common qualities in this part of Italy and they are the very qualities upon which the industrious future of a country will be strongly founded. One would say that the purity and the liveliness of these breezes do not allow one to remain idle, but spur you to undertake some work. One would say that the murmuring of the waters of these torrents, instead of inviting one to idle fancies, spurs one to couple it with the whirring of the wheels and of the machines and that this harmony urges one inexorably to work „.

### *Employments of the inhabitants.*

The inhabitants of the lower zone are all farmers: those of the middle zone are manufacturers, as in the valleys of the Elvo, of the lower Cervo, of the Strona and of the Sessera. In these places the manufactories are numberless, though the hydraulic power is scarce and irregular everywhere.

The mountaineer, on the contrary, is either a bricklayer, or a stone-mason or a builder — in spring he emigrates wherever he can practise his trade and late, in the autumn, he comes back with his small hoard of money. — Being industrious, sober, intelligent, he is appreciated and sought after and he doubtless is the emigrant who supports the honour of Italian emigration. Many of these mountaineers, especially of the valley of the Cervo, made great fortunes as enterprisers in far-off countries.

### ***Buildings.***

The villages of the lower zone are of ancient origin and they preserve, more or less, traces of the Middle Ages. As the soil becomes less fertile and more uneven, the villages have their peculiar characteristics.

Architecture has to struggle with place and space and strange buildings are erected as, in some villages, in the valley of the Cervo; they are most solid constructions of granite, the one piled upon the other, communicating into one another through arcades, balconies, odd passages, intersected with dark winding little streets; but great cleanliness is to be found everywhere. Here the mountaineer is so attached to his native soil, that, sometimes, great sums of money are paid for small plots of land.

### ***Historical notions.***

The origin of Biella is rather doubtful. It is supposed that some of the still existing traditions have been handed down from the Romans, but the first historical events are only recorded towards the IV century.

At the end of the XIV century the Biellese offered itself to the House of Savoy, taking a part, as the whole of Italy did in those times, in all the wars of the Middle Ages, which sometimes obliged them to submit to a foreign yoke. Ever since the last two centuries it has been under the domination of the House of Savoy.

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## THE TOWN OF BIELLA

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From the station of Santhià, on the main-line between Turin and Milan, a branch-line conveys the traveller to Biella, in less than an hour, passing through Salussola, Vergnasco, Sandigliano and Candelo. — As far as Salussola the line crosses a flat and rather barren country, but after the scenery becomes more and more beautiful, for before the eyes of the traveller the graceful enclosure of the Pre-Alps stretch gradually out, towered by the snowy mass of Monte Rosa. The view changes as one proceeds and, at last, Biella “*fra il monte e il verdeggiar del piano*,” (1) appears.

The lower town is commanded by the upper mediæval town, crowned with sumptuous villas, with the smoking chimneys of the manufactories, with the coquettish villages nestled half way up the mountains.

The town is divided in two parts — one called Biella-Piano (viz. lower part), and the other called Biella-Piazzo (viz. upper part). An electric Cable Tramway ascends to Biella-Piazzo.

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(1) « Between the mountain and the green plain ».

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## BIELLA-PIANO

In the public gardens in front of the Railway Station, is a monument of General Alfonso La Marmora. On Piazza Cavour a monument was erected to the glory of Quintino Sella, a great statesman.



Quintino Sella.

On the same Piazza is the new Teatro Sociale, completely rebuilt in 1893. In the same building of the Theatre are the " Circolo Sociale ", and the Alpine Club, the latter having interesting geological and zoological collections of the Biellese.

At Biella-Piano are specially worthy of notice the Battistero (Baptismal Fonts of the VIII century), the Cathedral and the Church of St. Sebastiano, in which are the tombs of the patrician family, the Marquis of La Marmora. At the door of the Crypt are three fine statues, representing Faith, Hope and Charity. Before the door is the statue of General Alfonso La Mar-

mora's wife, Bertie Mathew, in the act of praying. This modern, but fine work, was executed by Signor Tabacchi, a sculptor of Turin. — The Church of St. Sebastiano is a chef-d'œuvre of the XVI century and doubtless the most important building of Biella for its architecture and paintings. Over the principal doors there are three paintings of Gaudenzio Ferrari, representing St. Peter, St. Sebastiano and St. Gaudenzio.



Church of St. Sebastiano.

In the choir there are thirty-six walnut stalls, finely carved, in Bramante style. The Reading-Desk, in the same style, is also a fine ancient piece of work. In the Chapel to the right of the High Altar, is a statue of Christ taken down from the Cross, wrought in wood and of extraordinary beauty.

One of the walls of the Chapel is of a fine well-polished porphyry rock. This rock was first discovered by the late General La Marmora, at Favaro, a village on

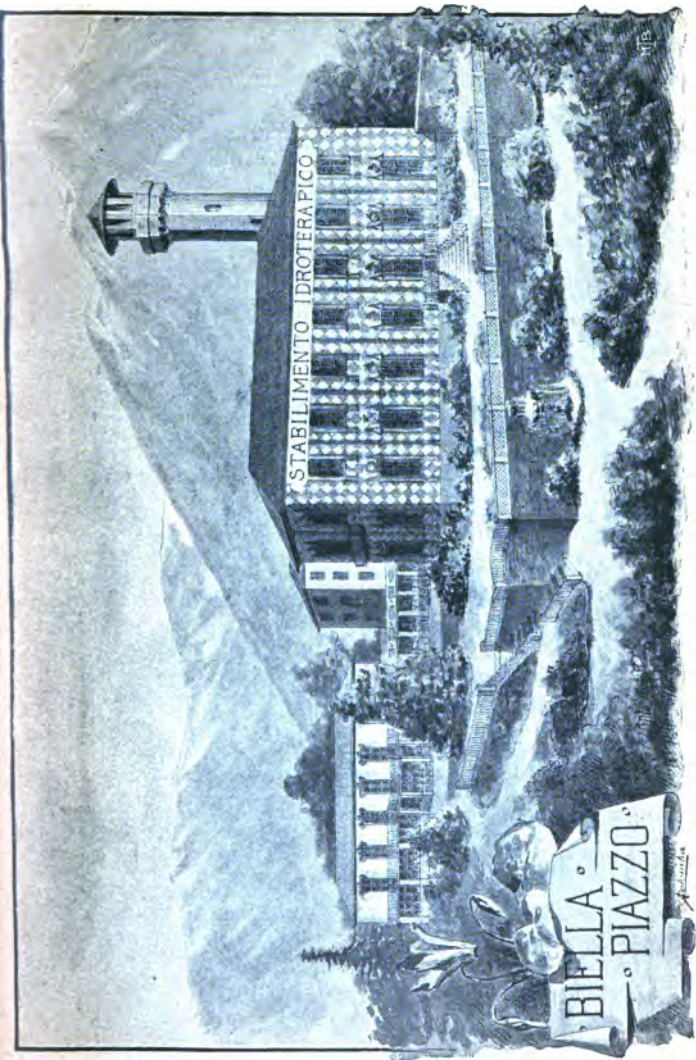
the way to Oropa and was placed there by Quintino Sella, as a mark of homage to the illustrious patrician geologist.

The principal street of Biella is called Umberto I, it is a very crowded street, especially on market days. — This street crosses the whole of the town and from the north end one enjoys a magnificent view of the Valley of the Cervo.

To the left of Via Umberto I, at about half way from the Station, are the Post Office and the Telegraph Office (Via Arnulfo). The town in itself has no characteristics, except being always much animated, especially during the summer months, in which one continually sees tourists either in carriages or on foot, going for excursions in the neighbouring mountains or to visit the celebrated Santuari of Oropa, St. Giovanni and Graglia.

### BIELLA-PIAZZO

The upper part of the town is as quiet as the lower one is noisy and crowded. The traveller is struck by its majestic appearance of antiquity and almost every house retains traces of by-gone days. Are worthy of notice the old Church of St. Anna, the palace of Counts of Ternengo, close to the Church, the Palace of the Princes of Cisterna (now the Barracks), the Palace of Marquis La Marmora. In the Hydropathic Establishment, once a palace belonging to the Princes of Masserano, an octagonal Tower was left intact and is called the "Belvedere". It was built in 1500 by Sebastiano Ferrero. At a short distance from the Electric tramway Station, turning to the right, is the Bridge "della Torrazza," from which one has a splendid view over the lower town, the plain and the surrounding Alps.





## Great Hydropathic Establishment of Biella-Piazzo.

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The Hydropathic Establishment of Biella-Piazzo was formerly a palace of the Princes of Masserano. The house, founded in 1865 by Dr. F. Debernardi, was partly restored, but it still retains the magnificence of its ancient origin. There are shady avenues in the large garden belonging to the Establishment and a covered promenade, where patients can do the reaction after the bath. — The bath department is completely new and the hydropathic arrangements have been made according to modern science and systems.

The mechanical Hydropathy is treated with scientific and rational methods, together with the Electro-hydropathy in its different applications, one of the most important being the Massage.

The indications as to diet and milk-cure will be given by the doctor. In the Establishment are large rooms for Gymnastics and Fencing.

All treatments are under the personal care of Dr. B. FERRARIA, proprietor, and of Dr. ARCHEL, coadjutor.

Professor RIPAMONTI, M. D. of Milan, for consultations.

The Establishment rises at 1500 feet above sea level, commanding one of the finest views of the Biellese. Biella-Piano, which lies at 210 feet lower than the Establishment, can easily be reached by the Electric Cable tramway. Near the Establishment are shady walks under chestnut-trees: the mountain drives are varied and charming. The climate is mild and uniform, the average temperature being 64° Fahr., never exceeding 78° Fahr.; in the hottest days there is always a pleasant and soft breeze — no high winds, no fogs.

The Proprietor, Dr. B. FERRARIA, as well as the Managers, will be glad to give the most detailed informations as to the treatment, sojourn etc. Address letters and telegrams to Biella-Piazzo.

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## THE BIELLESE IN THE PLAIN

### *Western part.*

Just outside the town is a square from which three roads start.

The one to the East takes the traveller to the Railway-station.

<sup>1</sup> The one to the South runs toward **Ponderano** (N. 21-23).

<sup>2</sup> The third road stretches towards the West and runs through a fertile plain. From this road another one, to the right, leads by shady windings to the **Hydro-pathic Establishment of Biella-Piazzo**.

From the same road (N. 2) another one takes the traveller to **Vandorno or Barazzetto**.

Following the road N. 2 one crosses the torrent <sup>3</sup> Oremo and reaches a cluster of houses, called "*La Canuova*", from where another one stretches to the North towards **Pollone** (N. 39).

Leaving this third branch behind, on the other side <sup>4</sup> of the Canuova, one reaches, in a few minutes, **Occhieppo Inferiore**, where is a most important Cotton-mill belonging to Messrs. Poma.

On the other side of the village, is the torrent Elvo.

The high-road turns towards the south and runs, <sup>5</sup> almost in a straight line, as far as **Mongrando**, which is divided into three suburbs: *Curanova*, *Ceresane* and *Borgo*.

In the Chapel of St. Michele is a fine steeple in Lombard style. In all these villages one finds paintings of the XVI and XVII centuries.

Weaving manufactories are flourishing in this village.

The road proceeds in the same direction and after crossing the torrent Viona, runs along the **Bessa** (N. 16).<sup>6</sup> This is the name of an immense and uninterrupted extent of masses of stones, which are scattered all over the ground, for many square kilometers, between the murex hills of the Serra and the bed of the Elvo, extending for seven kilometers as far as Cerrione (N. 22).

It seems that the Bessa was, in ancient times, a washing field of an auriferous district, where the Romans caused thousands of slaves to work. Let the traveller abandon the road and stroll a little in this strange region, where he will be struck with a curious and new sensation.

After, the road runs along the slopes of the Serra which divides the Biellese from the Canavese and reaches **Zubiena**.

At *Zubiena* another road turns to the North-West<sup>7</sup> and takes the traveller to **Sala** and to **Donato** (N. 35); the latter place is at the foot of Mombarone.

The high road at *Zubiena* proceeds towards the West, crossing successively, in endless windings, the murex hills ranged in parallel lines, formed, in ancient times, by the periodical withdrawing of the huge glacier coming down from Mont Blanc.

The scenery is strange and imposing. Before reaching the top of the Serra, the eye has an unrivalled view of the whole of the Biellese plain and of the amphitheatre of the Alps. Gradually the lofty peaks of the Valley of Aosta appear, which valley is seen at its beginning. From the other side of the Serra one has a grand view of the Canavese, while the winding road descends to **Bollengo** and thence to **Ivrea**.

One can go over the Serra, taking a horizontal route

- 8 from **Zubiena**; here a road leads to **Magnano**, a small rural village, celebrated for its traces of Middle Ages.



Magnano.

Worthy of notice are two wells in Via Maestra and the Church of St. Secondo (Lombard Style) at a quarter of an hour's walk for Magnano. Then the road proceeds to **Zimone** and **Roppolo** (N. 20).

### CENTRAL PART

A high-road, that may be said to be the continuation of Via Umberto I, runs to the South of the town of Biella. At the beginning of it are recently built houses, for the town extends especially on that side.

- 9 At about a kilometer from the town the road di-  
 10 verges. The one to the left leads to **Candelo** an ancient Middle Age small town, that well deserves an accurate visit of the archeologist, as well as of the tourist. On almost all the walls of the village are well-preserved frescoes. There are two in Via St. Sebastiano, one bearing the date of 1527; another one in Via St. Croce with the date 1494.

The old castle (XIII century) is a mediæval building, which was called a *Ricetto* (Refuge) on accounts of the provisions of all kinds kept in it and serving as a shelter in times of marauding.

The interior part of the *Ricetto* presents a severe aspect, with little straight streets and small plain one-floored houses. The traveller must not omit to visit the church of St. Lorenzo, erected in 1665.

From the square of the village a road ascends to a barren tract of land, called " *Baraggia di Candelo* ", (" *Baraggia* ", means a barren place) and then reaches **Castellengo**. This village, famous for its wines, consists of a few houses scattered here and there. The small ancient Church and the Tower of a ruined castle are worth a visit.

The road continues to run to the South, passing through **Mot-**<sup>12</sup>  
**talciata**. **Masazza**, both built at the foot of ruined castles: then the road turns towards the North and reaches **Benna**. All along this<sup>13</sup> road the traveller enjoys a magnificent view of the Biellese Pre-Alps.

From *Benna* a road leads to the North and takes the traveller back to *Candelo* —<sup>14</sup> by taking the other

one to the south-west he will reach **Verrone** in a quarter of an hour's walk. — The castle of the same name is an important monument of the XV century.

In the part of the castle, still inhabited, is a hall



Castle of Verrone.

with a fine wooden ceiling and a huge stuccoed chimney-piece with paintings of the XVII century.

- 15 To go to **Gaglianico** the traveller must keep to the high-road that runs to the South of Biella (N. 9), then he will pass through **Sandigliano**, a small place on the railway-line (Santhià-Biella). Of the old Castle, only the walls and two towers remain.
- 16 **Vergnasco** comes after and, at last, **Salussola** picturesquely situated on the extreme part of the Serra. — In this spot one finds many traces of ancient buildings and it is supposed that here rose the *Castrum Caesareum* of the Romans, who, from there, could see the slaves employed in the search of gold in the Bessa (N. 6).
- 17 The high-road proceeds to **Cavaglià**, lying on the last slopes of the Serra — from this place other hills stretch towards the west, forming the front murex of
- 18 the old glacier. Higher up the road descends to **Viverone** that lies on the west side of these hills, commanding the beautiful lake of the same name.

This lake, seven kilometers broad, is the largest one in Piedmont. Its origin is due to the same glacier that formed the murex hills that surround it. It is very picturesque for the marshy grasses that grow all around it, for the villages and the country-houses that are scattered along its banks and for the grand view of the Alps. A great deal of hunting goes on, on the lake, during the emigration time of wild fowls.

- The road skirts the lake for part of the way, running near the *Cappella d'Anzasco*; then proceeds to
- 19 **Piverone, Palazzo, Bollengo and Ivrea.**

- Above **Viverone** is the charming little village of
- 20 **Roppolo** (N. 8), where the traveller at once descries a fine old Castle (restored).

From **Gaglianico** (N. 15) taking the first turn to the right, beyond the Square, where the Church rises, a shady walk will take the tourist to the **Castle** of the same name.



Lake of Viverone.



The first historical documents that speak of this castle, bear the date of 1152. On 16th October, of the same year, Federico I gave Biella and its territory, Gaglianico and Ponderano to Ugucione, Bishop of Vercelli.

In 1404 the lordship of Gaglianico belonged to Ibleto di Challant, lord of many castles in the Valley of Aosta and Andorno. But in 1459, his nephews sold the Castle of Gaglianico for 12.000 francs, to Stefano Scaglia, who kept it only for twenty years and then sold it to the Ferrero.

In 1767 Vittorio Filippo Ferrero Fieschi sold it for 400.000 francs to the king of Sardinia.

About the middle of the present century the castle was bought by the Marquis Edmondo Raphaélis of Saint-Sauveur, who, before selling it (in 1882) to Signor G. Menabrea, took the rich ancient furniture, the brocade and leather hangings, the best pictures, the arms etc., to Paris.

The castle of Gaglianico is surrounded by two deep wide moats, still divided between them, by an old outer wall. It is a striking building, with its high and massive towers, its walls blackened with time; at the sight of this huge manor, little damaged by time and by man, the visitor's mind is easily carried back to the poetical times of the fair ladies, of the enamoured poets, of the noble barons and of the bold knights clad in steel.

Over the central tower on the East side, is a damaged painting with the coat of arms and motto of the Ferrero-Fieschi, once lords of the place.

The square yard is in perfect style of the XV century. Porticoes, with beautiful Gothic terra-cotta friezes run on three sides of the yard.

On the vault of the dining-hall are paintings of coats of arms and figures — on one of the walls, together with other figures, there is the genealogical tree of the Acciaiuoli, whose founder, Giugliuallo Acciaiuoli, lived in 1161.

In the adjoining kitchen a big chimney-piece of the XVII century is worthy of notice.

Under the porticoes is a stone on which is written :

MÔSR DE CHA  
MÔT CHARLES DA  
BOISE CRAD M<sup>e</sup> DE  
FRASE MA FONDÉ  
14.....0.

Signor Severino Pozzo gives the following translation in his book: *Il castello di Gaglianico* :

« *Monsieur de Chateau Mont Charles d'Amboise grand maitre de France, m'a fondé. — 14.....0* ».

This is not surely the date of the foundation of the Castle, but

that of the Watch Tower which, in fact, appears to be less ancient than the rest of the Castle.

On the first and second floors are many large rooms, with paintings of different epochs, so that one could easily follow the history of the art in Piedmont by an accurate study of them.

The prisons remind the visitor of cruel and heart-rending scenes. In one of the cells a figure is painted in the act of piercing his heart through, and under it is written: « Carlo Felice Paglino, qui fu per tristo destino, 1670 » (Carlo Felice Paglino, was put here through the cruellest fate).

A pleasant garden has replaced the old terrepleins of the castle — it was traced out by Le Nôtre, who became celebrated for the parks of Saint-Cloud and of Versailles.

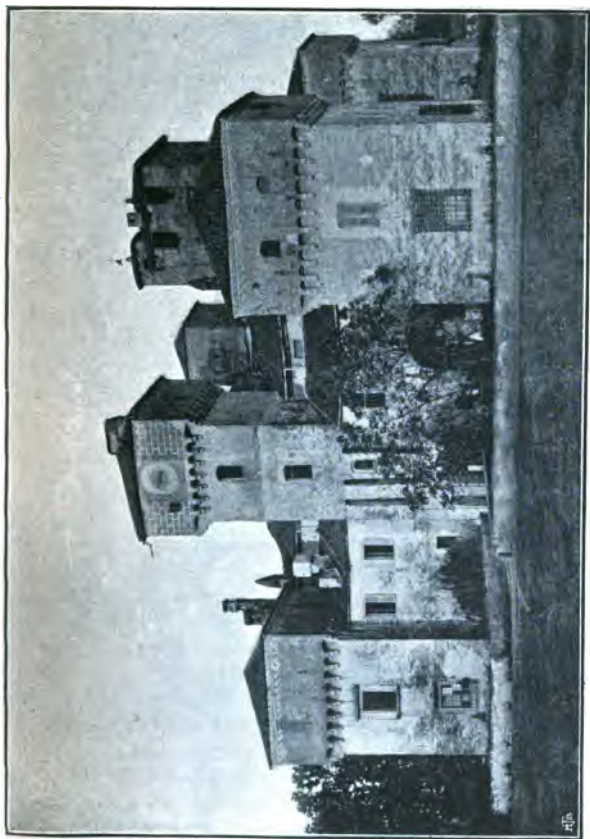
Near the Castle is a thick wood of lofty trees.

- 21 After *Gaglianico* the road proceeds to **Ponderano** (N. 1-23), another mediæval village, of the half-ruined castle little remains but a fine arched door (1300) with a kind of tower over it, which one reaches by a sloping road, where, in ancient times, was the draw-bridge. High up, on the other part of the tower are still seen the loop-holes, which served to let down the portcullis in case of surprise.



Castle of Cerrione from the Elvo.

At the entrance of the village of *Vergnasco* (N. 16) a road, turns to the right and crossing the fertile plain, takes the traveller to the torrent Elvo. — The foot-



Castle of Gaglianico.



passengers can cross it on a bridge of very primitive construction and vehicles can wade across it, the waters being always shallow. — On the other side, on the top of a hill, appears the Church of **Cerrione**, in Gothic style and the old Castle, now belonging to Marquis George Cockle. — This castle was probably erected on the ruins of a *Roman Castrum* for the place must have been an important one, in the time of gold-extraction. There is no doubt as to its having being inhabited, in ancient times, for the very name *Cerrodunum* is of a Celtic origin.

In the village that nestles at its foot, are to be found many mediæval traces. The castle and the village form an ensemble of great beauty, for the contrasts of the tints.

Not far from here, the southern part of the Bessa ends. Re-crossing the torrent one can go to *Ponderano*, turning towards the North.

## EASTERN PART

Coming from the station, before entering via Umberto I, a pretty boulevard of horse-chestnut-trees leads towards the East and ends with a terrace, which commands a broad view of the Cervo and of all the eastern part of the low Biellese.

In the centre of the boulevard, near Via Vittorio Emanuele, a road descends to the valley of the Cervo. On the other side of the torrent the high-road stretches towards the East, and soon reaches the first houses of the district of **Chiavazza** and proceeds for many kilometers in that direction skirting the foot of the vine-clad hills of *Valdenigo*, *Lessona*, etc., which are studded with many villas and pleasant villages.

Then the road passes near the village of **Vigliano** and, after a course of about 10 kilometers, it reaches the important district of **Cossato**, formed by many clusters of houses, scattered here and there.

From **Vigliano** a road runs to the South and leads to **Candelo** (N. 10) crossing the Cervo and another one to the North, leads to **Ronco** (N. 93).

Between *Vigliano* and *Ceretto* is a road which goes to **Valdengo** (N. 98), a village high up on the hill and between *Ceretto* and *Cossato* another road goes to **Quaregna** (N. 101).

Through *Cossato* runs the torrent *Strona*.

The road proceeds in the same direction, ascending a ridge of hills that project towards the plain and descends again, rather steeply, through a place called  
27 *La Ratina* and turning to the right proceeds easily to **Gattinara** and to **Romagnano Sesia**. The road skirts the *Baraggia* of *Masserano*, a vast brambled extension of land, which runs almost as far as the rice-fields of the *Vercellese*.

On the left, on the contrary, one always obtains fine scenery, from the gay hills of *Masserano*, *Brunengo* and *Lessona*, to the red tinted heights of *Curino* and *Sostegno*, as far as *Gattinara*.

From here the highest peaks of *Monte Rosa* are visible just behind the Pre-Alps of the Biellese. Before crossing the torrent *Ostola*, on the descent of the *Ratina* (N. 27) a road diverges to the left and, crossing  
28 a small vale, goes to **Masserano**, an important agricultural centre, gracefully situated on the slope of a hill.

### Masserano.

In *Piazza Montecameri* is a remnant of a painting of 1596.

Higher up, before arriving at another « piazza » to the left, is a dark steep lane, flanked by low porticoes. Here one finds oneself completely in the Middle Ages, although the recent repairs to the houses have effaced almost every vestige of decorations.

There is only a fresco of 1609 under the portico to the left and two stones roughly wrought which the peasants believe to be idols: one represent a knight on horseback galloping — on the other is carved a cock.

Worthy of notice are the ancient church of *St. Teonesto* and the parochial church, the latter erected at the beginning of the XVI century. It is a huge temple in Gothic style. To the left of the high altar is a painting by *Raffaele Giovenone* of Vercelli (1484) representing the « Beata Vergine del Rosario ». Close to it is another painting, « La Cena Domini » of the school of Lanino and in front a third of the school of Gaudenzio Ferrari.

At the end of the village rises a huge building: it is the late castle of the Princes of La Marmora, built in 1684 and since 1867 the seat of the town-hall of Masserano. It is well worthy a visit for the numerous frescoes and paintings that it contains. All the ceilings of the rooms are beautifully painted, representing mythological and allegorical subjects — there is a splendid one especially by *Morazzone* (Pier Francesco Muggichelli of Milan). The record-offices of this town-hall are well kept and possess many documents.



## THE CENTRAL ZONE

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### *From the Serra to the Elvo.*

From Biella to Occhieppo Inferiore see N. 4.

At the commencement of **Occhieppo Inferiore** a broad and straight avenue turns to the right and, ascending gradually towards the North-West, soon reaches  
29 **Occhieppo Superiore**, where are important manufacturing factories. Crossing the village by a stony street, the road diverges at the end of it. The branch-road to the right leads to the frazioni called *Fiario* and *Galfione*  
80 — from the former a road goes to **Pollone** (N. 39).

Taking the branch-road to the left, it soon begins to ascend the left side of the Elvo, the latter torrent flowing, in some places, on a narrow high-banked bed, leaving, another branch-road to the right, that goes  
81 to **Sordevolo** (N. 40).

The former road continues to ascend along the torrent — it passes through a viaduct and descends to the new bridge over the Elvo, boldly constructed at 150 feet above the gloomy gorge. The road ascends along the opposite bank in long windings and soon takes the  
82 traveller to **Muzzano**. The foot-passenger might shorten the way by taking a cross-road that ascends up the coast, on the other side of the bridge.

The old road still exists, which leads to **Muzzano** from **Occhieppo Inferiore** — it starts near the Manufactory of Messrs. Poma, close to the bridge over

the Elvo. This road is also convenient and pleasant and shorter than the new one. The pedestrian might take cross-roads on the mountain, to avoid the long windings of the carriage road.

Soon after *Muzzano* the road reaches *Graglia*, chief<sup>33</sup> town of a department.

The picturesque and healthy position of these two districts, as well as the lower one of *Camburzano*, make them pleasant summer resorts, there being, in fact, many elegant and comfortable villas.

No industry of any kind is carried on here — the men emigrate to follow the trade of masons, bricklayers etc.

The tourist soon reaches the Parish Church of *Graglia* — here the road proceeds easily and is well kept, running half way up the last slopes of the *Mombarone*, following its turnings and passing through splendid passages.

In about an hour one reaches *Netro*, a village well-<sup>34</sup> known for its forges, where the best scythes and agricultural implements are made. In olden times *Netro* was celebrated for the excellent arms that were made by its inhabitants.

The village is crossed by a steep and uneven street — then the carriage-road begins again, but not so good as before, passing successively through *Castellazzo*,<sup>35</sup> *Ceresito* and at last *Donato* (N. 7) separated from the Serra by the torrent *Viona*. *Ceresito* is a well-known spot for summer residence.

From *Donato* the road descends to cross the *Viona* near the mill, and then ascends along the barren Eastern side of the *Serra*, which being here at its origin, has only one distinct slope, that unites it to the *Mombarone*.

The top of the *Serra* is easily reached and the traveller finds himself on the Canavese side, whence he descries the village of *Andrate*. — This excursion is<sup>36</sup> particularly recommended for its extensive and interesting scenery.

From *Mongrando* (N. 5) a road leads to *Donato*, ascending the left bank of the *Viona*.

From *Muzzano* and *Graglia* two carriage-roads stretch towards the north, which soon after unite again, 87 near the little church of *Madonna di Campra*. Here the road continues ascending, always shaded by fine trees, passes near the Chapel called the "*Samaritana*," and, 88 at last, reaches the **Sanctuary of Graglia**.

Near the Sanctuary rises the **Hydropathic Establishment** and opposite the latter place is the "**Ristorante dell'Eco**," (well spoken of). Not far from there lies the pretty "*villa Oneto*."

The Sanctuary was founded in the XVII century by the curate of Graglia, *Don Nicolao Velotti*. During the life-time of this pious man, little was done to the Temple, for want of funds.

A hundred chapels are scattered on the neighbouring hills, each representing a scene of the life of Jesus Christ, before and after his Crucifixion.

In 1659 and in 1760 the works were begun again and the site first chosen for the erection of the Sanctuary was abandoned: the new building rose on the hill called "*The Divine Goodness*,".

In 1826, Carlo Felice, king of Piedmont, reorganised the works of the Sanctuary.

At Graglia (Sanctuary) there is a good and clean Hôtel and a Café, which are opened the whole year round.

About 200 people can be accommodated gratis in the Sanctuary, each person for nine days only, but one can stay longer, making a small offering to the Church of the Sanctuary.

From the top balcony (loggia) of the Sanctuary, one enjoys a magnificent panorama, embracing, to the left, the Cupola of St. Gaudenzio in Novara and the church-towers of Vercelli — in front, the Serra and the hills of the Canavese, of the Monferrato and of



Sanctuary of Graglia.



Turin, crowned by the Basilica of Sopera — to the right, the Cottian and Maritime Alps, with the commanding pyramid of Monte Viso.

In the Church are worthy of notice the two paintings, by *Mauro Piccinardi* of Bergamo, over the altars to the right and left side of the entrance.

In the sacristy is a good painting by an unknown artist, representing the Santissima Sindone and nine beautiful heads of Saints with the Saviour.

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## Great Hydropathic Establishment of Graglia.

The Hydropathic Establishment of Graglia rises at 2550 feet above sea level on the gentle and gay slopes of Mombarone, where the alpine severity is replaced by the green pasture-land and by the luxuriant vegetation. Close to it is the imposing Sanctuary and Hospice of the same name. The air is pure, bracing and dry — the climate mild and uniform — the average summer temperature being from 64°4 to 71°6 Fahr. The environs are beautiful for the deep green of the meadows and fields, for the handsome villas scattered here and there, for the alpine scenery, for the shady walks that nature and workmanship have lavished on them. — From the Establishment to Biella is a fine carriage-road, twelve kilometers long (about seven miles) passing through picturesque villages lying on both sides of the torrent Elvo, namely Occhieppo Inferiore and Superiore, Sordevolo, Muzzano and Graglia. The carriage-road crosses the Elvo over a fine newly-built bridge — the drive from Biella to Graglia takes at most an hour and a half.

Hydropathy in all its forms and modalities, Galvanic, Faraday and Static Electrotherapy and Hydro-electrotherapy are practised under the immediate superintendence of the doctors, with scientific methods and the latest perfected apparatuses. Massage, « gastrolusis », pneumotherapy, suspension, medical gymnastics, gymnastics of Fraënkell, milk-cure and all other cures, which medical science and therapy have been enriched with, are practised in this Establishment.

There is a good spring of ferruginous water, which has been analysed by competent chymists, such as Prof. DE-NEGRI of Genoa, and Dr. F. CROJA of the Chymical Institute of Rome. Illnesses of the nervous system, of the blood, of retention of the blood, of the respiratory and digestive organs, of rheumatic and catarrhal affections, different conditions of weakness and exhaustion, find in this Establishment adequate means of obtaining a radical cure.

There are more than one hundred single-bedded and double-bedded rooms — table-d'hôte and restaurant, reading-room, drawing-rooms, ball-room, salle de jeu, billiard-room — large covered terraces and galleries, gardens, lawn-tennis — electric light throughout the establishment and in the premises — hydraulic and electric ventilators — every comfort of a first-class house.

Post and Telegraph Offices — Graglia-Santuario-Bagni. — Private Agent and carriages at the Railway Station of Biella.

*Sanitary Managers:* Cav. Dr. E. SORMANO, — Dr. A. GOLZIO.

*Weekly consultations:*

Cav. Uff. Prof. G. B. QUEIROLO,  
Director of the Medical Clinic of Pisa.

From the *Canuova* (N. 3) an easy road stretches towards the North and in about 40 minutes' walk <sup>39</sup> takes you to the pretty village of **Pollone**, where there are gay country-seats with well laid-out grounds.

— There is also an important Wool manufactory.

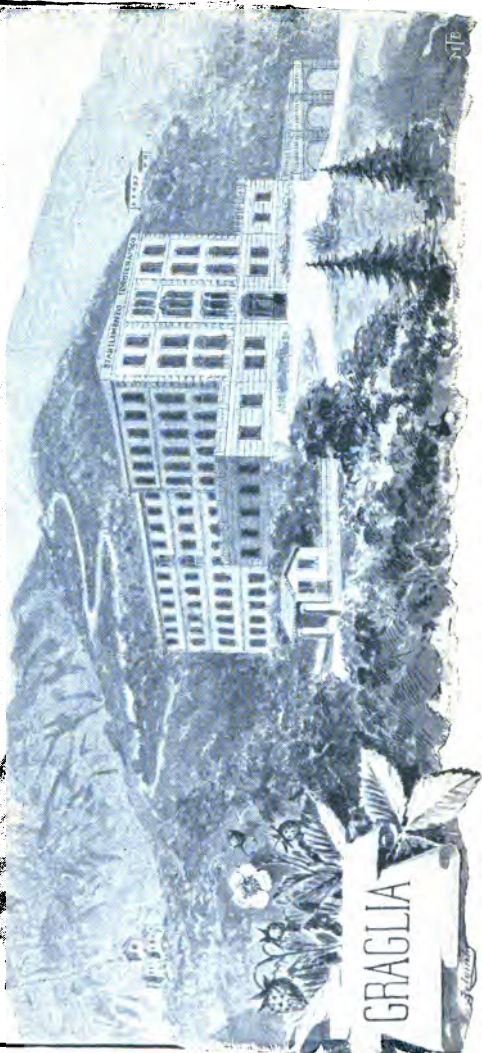
*Lorenzo Delleani* (1), one of the best modern Italian painters, was born at Pollone, where he spends every year part of the summer months. His paintings from nature are unrivalled for the truth of colouring and the freshness of the scenery of his native Pre-Alps.



L. Delleani in his studio.

At the back of the Church of *Pollone* a fine carriage-road runs, half way up the mountain, to the <sup>40</sup> West, and in less than half an hour reaches **Sorde**

(1) Lorenzo Delleani. - Studio: Piazza Vittorio Emanuele I, N. 7. - Turin.





volo (N. 31), a much frequented spot during the summer months.

The industrious inhabitants are much occupied in the manufacture of wool.



Pollone.

From the town-hall of *Pollone*, turning to the right, one crosses the *Oremo*, going towards the hill called **Burcina**. A beautiful winding carriage-road runs along the North-west coast and in half an hour leads to **Fa-<sup>41</sup>varo** (N. 46), a village over the ridge stretching from the *Mucrone* and the *Burcina*.

A walk on the *Burcina* is much recommended, for it projects far towards the plain and offers extensive scenery. On the South-west coast runs a fine private carriage-road, which crosses a wood of pines and of exotic plants, for the *Burcina* displays a profusion of luxuriant vegetation and is a real garden of acclimatization.

From the lower part of *Pollone* another carriage-<sup>42</sup>

road (not very well kept) crosses the torrent *Oremo*, passes through the "frazione", of **Burcina** and proceeds half way up the coast, on the front of the hill, as far as **Vandorno** (N. 43).

From the *Avenue del Fossale*, behind Piazza Cavour in Biella, the road ascends the steep coast *dei Cappuccini* and reaches the quadrangle called *della Botte*.

The street to the left leads to *Biella-Piazzo*, over the bridge of the *Torrazza*.



Near the Hydropathic Establishment of Cossila.

43 The central road proceeds towards the West, running, for some distance, on a flat table-land, at the end of which the village of *Cossila* can be discerned; then, turning to the right, descends rapidly and crosses the torrent *Bolumè* and ascending the opposite coast, reaches the frazione **Vandorno** (N. 2, 42).

The road to the right towards the North, soon reaches

44 **Cossila**, called by the people "*lunga e sottile*", (long and thin) for its "frazioni", (clusters of houses) are scattered here and there along the road.

On the second "frazione", where the road runs  
45 on level ground, is the "**Great Hydropathic Establishment of Cossila**".





## Great Hydropathic Establishment of Cossila.

This Establishment rises on a shady plateau surrounded by luxuriant chestnut-trees, crossed by the road to Oropa. In 1888 the House was completely remodelled. After long and accurate studies, Dr. BURGONZIO had a Hydropathic Pavilion built, which proved a complete success according to modern technical necessities, hygiene and elegance. From a central waiting-room one goes to the Ladies' and Gentlemen's departments, the former completely separated from the latter, with large douche rooms, single douche bath-rooms, head-baths, foot-baths, sit-baths, at any degree and pressure — bath-rooms for medicated baths, « *bagni raffreddati* » (in the « *bagno raffreddato* » the water is first warm, then replaced by cold water), Leiter calottes etc.; bath-room with dry and humid temperature, elegant piscine with running-water. The water has sufficient and abundant pressure; it is very pure and continually supplied by a special apparatus at any temperature from 48° to 113° Fahr. — By a set of pipes cold water is obtained at different pressures, from the water-supply of Biella. There are also springs of cold water belonging to the Establishment. The apparatuses constructed by the renowned Houses of Calzoni (Bologna), Callarotti (Turin), Nicola Orbilio (Biella) and Butzke (Berlin) afford the greatest modern comforts. The Pneumotherapy is treated with compressed air, with the apparatuses of Waldenburg-Forlanini. From the Electrotherapy apparatuses one obtains Galvanic, Faraday and Static electricity.

The massage is performed by the masseurs or by the attendant doctor. — For bronchial affections there is an inhaling-room in direct communication with the Gasometer (system Ferrario) expressly built for the Establishment, which contains large and long galleries for reaction, in case of bad weather, drawing-rooms, ball-rooms, reading-rooms, bed-rooms, suites of rooms for families, with every modern comfort. Behind the Establishment a large park descends towards the valley in gentle slopes and in front of the house is a big garden with a small lake, the Chapel and a Dependence Villa, for those who wish to have a quiet secluded place, all the drawing-rooms etc. of the house being at their disposal too. About a hundred persons can be easily accommodated in the Establishment and every care is taken, to render the treatment as efficacious as possible under every respect. In the Establishment is a Chymic-clinical room for the treatment of gastro-intestinal diseases. — The season lasts from 1<sup>st</sup> June to 1<sup>st</sup> October. Telegraph office in the house. — Post twice a day. — Telephone. — At the station of Biella carriages of the Establishment (*Albergo dell'Angelo*).

Address letters for further informations to the manager Doctor L. C. BURGONZIO.

The road then passes through the "frazione", *San Giovanni, Cavallo* and, then, shaded by tall and thickly-planted chestnuts reaches **Favaro** (N. 52), the last "frazione", of *Cossila*.

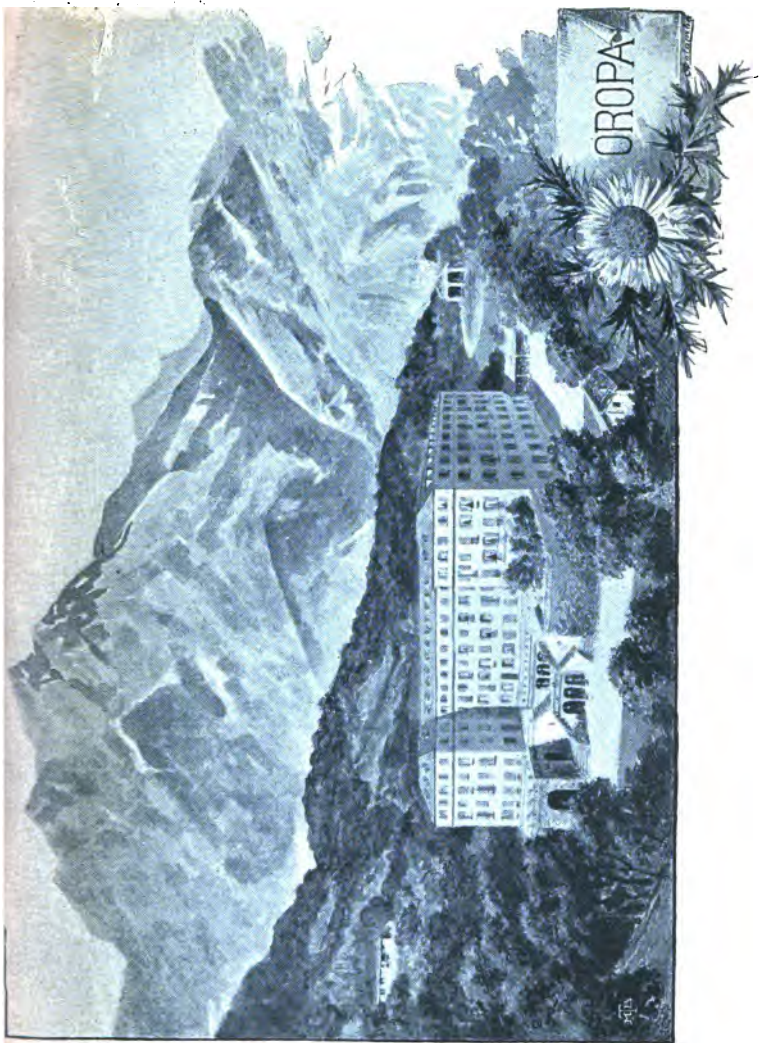
The road that one sees to the left at the beginning of the village, is the one coming from *Pollone* (N. 41).

Just outside Favaro are the "*Quarries Serpentino*", which yield excellent stones, much used on the roads of the Biellese. The road proceeds half way up the mountain along the east side of *Mount Mucrone*, and the eye embraces all the valley of Oropa and the vast plain.

47. At a turning of the road, the **Great Hydropathic Establishment** rises, nestled in the steep wooded coast of the mountain. A beautiful drive diverges from the carriage-road of Oropa, near the *Chapel of St. Fermo*, at about two kilometers from the Sanctuary.

## Great Hydropathic Establishment of Oropa.

From the station of Biella, by the picturesque carriage-road of Oropa, one arrives in less than two hours at the Hydropathic Establishment of Oropa. It was the first climatic house founded in Italy, about 50 years ago, and its old reputation has never failed to maintain itself. The establishment is situated on the slopes of Mount Mucrone at 3180 feet above sea level and rises among chestnut and pine trees, at a little distance from the place where the valley narrows and forms the gorge in which the Sanctuary of Oropa lies. — The establishment is sheltered from winds and dampness, has shady walks, bracing air, the temperature never exceeding 73° Fahr. — abundant and clear water — unrivalled scenery of the Piedmontese and Lombard plains. This house was founded in 1850 by Cav. Dr. GUELPA, on the principles of Priessnitz and Brünner. Cav. Dr. G. MAZZUCHETTI gradually introduced every change that modern science suggested, so that one finds all means for scrupulous Hydropathic and Electric cures. — Massage — large piscine (running water) bath-rooms on all the floors — temperature from 44°6' to 104° Fahr. — separate baths for ladies and for gentlemen. — Milk-cure in an adjacent chalet, the excellent quality of the milk is due to the mountain pasturages.





The house can accommodate more than 200 persons — special accommodation for families — elegant concert-room — ball-room — reading-room — billiard-room — fencing-room — terraces — porticoes — table d'hôte for 180 guests — private dining-rooms. Long walks can be taken in the park, more than five kilometers long (about three miles), under shady and plane avenues. The Establishment is a starting-point for many alpine excursions, such as the Lake and Peak of Mount Mucrone, the Hospice of S. Giovanni, Mount Camino, Mount Mars, Fontanamora and Gressoney in the valley of Aoste.

Competent doctors, among whom Dr. RICCARDO MAZZUCHETTI, always reside in the house. Prof. Cav. LIVIERATO of the R. University of Genoa visits the establishment once a week, having the entire medical direction of the cures. Post three times a day. — Telegraph office. — For further informations address letters to signor STIEGLER, proprietor.

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From the *Chapel of St. Fermo* the road becomes more alpine-like and picturesque. Along the road are some Chapels, containing scenes from Sacred History and at the last turn of the road, the imposing buildings of the **Sanctuary** rise, lying at the end of that mountainous gorge.

Before the Hospice is a great terrace (terrazzo). The Sanctuary consists of a quadrangle building, with many wings. On the ground-floor runs, all around the buildings, a broad portico, and all the floors communicate with one another by large staircases and galleries, along which are the bed-rooms.

There are 436 rooms devoted to the reception of pilgrims and visitors — 60 other rooms for the domestic staff of the Hospice — many others are hired in hotels and shops. — There are beds for no less than 2250 people and, at times of great assembling of pilgrims and visitors, they make up beds for 8.000 and even 10.000 people. — In the year 1894, 135.000 people had free accommodation in the Hospice — in 1899, 103.000. Food is granted free to the poor for three days. There is a Hydropathic Establishment for the poor — every year a hundred persons obtain free boarding and medical attendance for 40 days. — In the Hos-

pice there are a Post and a Telegraph Office — a school for elementary and superior teaching. — There are two hotels, two cafés, two shops of hardware and jewellery — a tobacconist, a baker etc. — In the rooms called “ del Tesoro „ are kept precious sacerdotal garments and sacred gold and silver ornaments etc.; many of which are of artistic workmanship and great value, offered by the pious in the course of many successive ages.



Oropa — principal façade.

Next summer there will be an electric railway from Biella to the Hospice of Oropa.

From the lower yard a huge flight of steps leads to the upper one, where the church stands. The works for the erection of another great Church are begun, but they proceed slowly for want of funds.

The Sanctuary of Oropa was founded in 369. The piety of many generations of faithful, added building upon building to the primitive little Church.

From the Sanctuary one can take many beau-

tiful and easy walks: are recommended the "*Passeggiata dei Preti*," (walk of the Priests) — another, behind the Cemetery, that proceeds on level ground as far as the *Chapel of St. Joseph* — the well-known visit to the *Chapels*, scattered on the West ridge of the mountain.

From the Chapel "*del Paradiso*," (the highest) the path plunges into a very fine wood of beech-trees.

In the cemetery of Oropa are many fine monuments of wealthy families of Biella. The pyramid which rises in the upper part of the Cemetery, is the tomb of *Quintino Sella*, a great Italian Statesman.



Oropa — upper yard.



L. DELLEANI — *Spring*.

### *From Oropa to the Cervo.*

At the end of Via Umberto I in Biella, the road diverges in two branches. The one the left skirts some  
 48 important manufactories, crosses the torrent *Oropa* and after having ascended for a while, the road again diverges in two branches. — Close by, there is still an  
 49 ancient Roman Bridge, called "*Ponte di Annibale*". — Leaving to the right the road which runs towards *Tol-*  
 50 *legno*, one reaches **Pralungo** in about half an hour. — This is a much recommended walk from Biella, for the grand and varied scenery as far as Pralungo, whence the scene becomes still more picturesque, for the road is shaded by lofty chestnut-trees. — Beyond **St. Eurusia** a narrow rough road ascends steeply to join  
 51 (near some chalets called *Pradinetto*) the path coming from *Andorno* (N. 125), and thence proceeds as far as *Oropa*.

From *Pralungo* (N. 50) a carriage-road stretches along the left side of the torrent, as far as the bridge over the *Oropa*, near the "frazione", **Pralungo-Valle**. The houses on the opposite side of the torrent belong  
 52 to **Favaro** (N. 46) (the part called "*Inferno*", (hell) and the principal part can be reached in a quarter of an hour, ascending the mountainous slope.

At the diverging of the road (along which the railway runs too) by "*il ponte d'Annibale*", (N. 49), taking the turning to the right, the traveller reaches the  
 53 district of **Tollegno** in half an hour. Crossing the *Cervo*, the hydraulic power of which sets into motion many factories, one finds oneself on the high-road of Biella-*Andorno* (N. 55) at ten minutes from the latter place.

At the first divergence of the road, just outside the town of Biella (N. 48) taking the turning to the





right, one crosses the torrent and the bridge called "*della Maddalena* „, at the junction of the Oropa and Cervo, and then the road runs along the course of the latter.

The portion of **Pavignano** (N. 82) is soon crossed <sup>54</sup> and going forward the scenery becomes more and more interesting, overlooking on the opposite side of the torrent and then meets the road proceeding from *Tollegno* (N. 53); at last reaches **Andorno**, an impor- <sup>55</sup> tant district, much frequented by "*villeggianti* „ in summer. Near the last houses to the left of Andorno, is the "**Hydropathic Establishment of Andorno** „, and further up at a short distance from the road, the "**Grand Hôtel** „.

## Great Hydropathic Establishment of Andorno.

Andorno is six kilometers (more than three miles) from Biella and is reached by two different and beautiful carriage-roads and by a steam-railway. It rises at 1650 feet above sea level on an elevated plateau in the valley of the Cervo. The valley that narrows after Biella expands into a fine amphitheatre before the alpine village of Andorno, surrounded by lofty mountains, picturesque hills and numerous villages.

In the upper part of the village, at 1800 feet above sea level, and quite isolated, rises the Hydropathic Establishment, once an ancient castle of the famous bishop Fieschi and of Hbleto di Challant.

The building was completely remodelled and provided with spacious and comfortable rooms, porticoes etc.

The Hydropathic arrangements are perfect — graduated douches, bath-rooms on all floors — piscine — steam-baths — carbonic-acid baths — "*bagni raffreddati* „ (in the "*bagno raffreddato* „ (1) the water is first warm, then is replaced by cold water).

The electrotherapy is specially well treated — modern apparatuses at transformation — currents at high frequency and "*courants sinusoïdales* „ — hydro-electro and electro-static baths — *bains de lumière* — Röntgen rays. Manual and mechanic massage, the latter with motors and machines of the well-known houses Reimiger Gebbert & Stall of Erlangen and of Boschetti of Turin. Medical gymnastic with apparatuses of the house Knocke & Dressler — suspension — gastrolusis — special diets — laboratory for physiological researches — respiration by compressed and rarified air — Salaghi apparatuses.

(1) See "*Das abgekühlte Bad* „. Dr. VINAJ, *Fortschritte der Hydrotherapie*. Wien 1897.

### Grand Hôtel of Andorno.

Close to the establishment is the Grand Hôtel, a modern and imposing building, affording all the comforts of foreign hotels, large and elegant rooms — covered verandahs — lift — new hydro and electro-therapeutic establishment. — Electric light throughout both the houses — lawn-tennis — large park with pine-trees.

*Medical director*: Dr. G. S. VINAJ, professor of Hydrology at the R. University of Turin.

*Managers of the Establishment*: Dr. F. CANOVA and Prof. BADUEL — assistant doctor — masseur and masseuse.

*Administrators*: A. SELLA (proprietor of Grand Hôtel, Cap d'Antibes), C. CORTESE (proprietor Grand Hôtel-Rome).

The climate of Andorno is fresh, uniform — no excessive heat or sudden fallings of temperature.

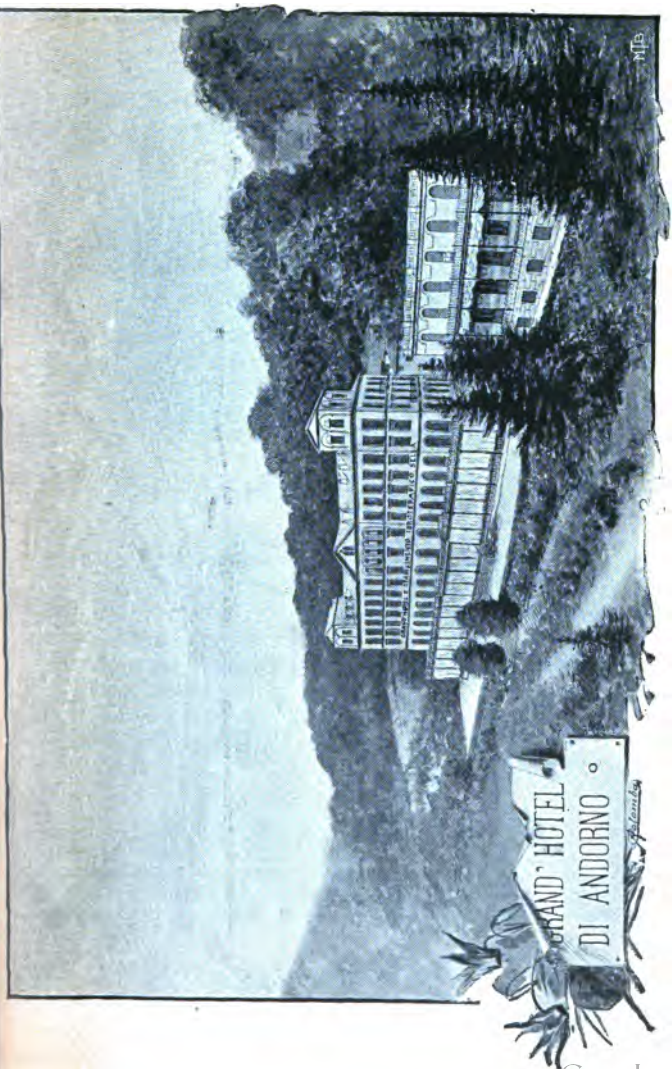
56 At **Miagliano**, near Andorno, on the shores of the Cervo, is the great Cotton-mill of *Messrs. Poma*, a real model of modern Industrial Establishments, with pretty little cottages for the workmen and with benevolent Institutions for the same.

57 Close to Andorno is a village called **Sagliano-Micca**, the native place of *Pietro Micca*, to whose memory a monument was erected on the Piazza. This heroic soldier, at the sacrifice of his own life, saved the Citadel of Turin on 30th August 1706, by springing a mine, when the French Grenadiers had already advanced to the very gates of the town.

On the North side of the village the carriage-road proceeds up the valley, almost always narrow and rocky, but well wooded, keeping to the left of the torrent Cervo, with the railway-line running alongside.

At a sharp turn of the valley, after Sagliano, are 58 the frazioni called **Passo Breve**, **Bogna** and **Balma**. Here the railway-line ends.

Here are important quarries of a very fine granite. The carriage-road proceeds, skirting the torrent, to a 59 pretty village called **Campiglia-Cervo**, passes under an arcade of the Chapel of "*Ritërt* ", runs again through the village and crosses the torrent over the



11/3



Bridge "*del Concesio*". At last making a sharp turn, 60 it runs along a green vale, over which stretch alpine-like slopes. Here is the gay village of **Rosazza**, well- 61 known for its clean and neat houses, villas, etc.



Chapel of « Ritört ».

Further up the valley narrows again and the road runs along the right bank of the Cervo, flanked by huge high walls of granite, that support the last houses of the village.

The traveller passes through the arcade of a Chapel, then over the torrent, on the bridge "*del Pinchiolo*", 62 and always skirting the torrent, one reaches **Piedi- 63 cavallo**, the last district of the valley of Andorno.

“ **La Cà d' l'Om salvéi** , (1).

(*The house of the unsociable man*).

It is a very poor and plain cottage, half tumbling to pieces, its roof falling in. It is surrounded by beech-trees and brambles growing in wild luxuriance: but among those ruins hovers a love legend . . . . .

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(1) Near Montesinaro.

On the steep sides of the mountain, where the wood is thickest and the vegetation mingles with stones, was the rustic house of the « om salvéi » (in patois it means « the unsociable man », who led his solitary life. — The murmurs of the valley below, the bleating of the grazing herds on the ridge of the mountain, the hollow sound of the torrent breaking into foam as it rushes into the abyss, reached his ear as a faint echo, like sad and discordant music, that recalled to his mind remembrances of the past. — There, utterly separated from the world, the « om salvéi » was apparently happy. — On fine starry nights when peace reigned all around and the leaves of the beech-trees rustled gently, he would come out of his humble dwelling and remain for long hours looking at the sky, over which travelled some cloudlets: he then collected his thoughts and mused.

Before turning away from his fellow-creatures, the « om salvéi » had been a wordly and dissolute young man. One day he fell in love with a charming maiden, the prettiest and the richest of the village. He was poor, but he possessed a superior mind and great talent. He felt his inferiority as far as riches went, and was almost sure of a refusal, had he asked her to marry him.

But the maiden was not indifferent to his declarations and many a time he had read in her eyes a promise of love — so he made an oath to become worthy of her by studying hard. He kept to his oath. Two years after we find them happily married.

Before their impassioned gaze everything became beautiful, the past disappeared, the future rose happily before them, and their minds wandered far into the limitless fields of the horizon, in a blissful ecstasy of dreams and illusions. To love and to be loved, was not this the greatest happiness?..... We find them on the high mountain.

He is sitting in the shade of the beech-trees to rest after a long and fatiguing walk: she, her silvery laugh echoing like that of a happy child, plunges trustfully and thoughtlessly into the wood to gather cyclamens, and these, by their fragrant odour, draw her among treacherous rocks, wreathed with hanging festoons of lichens.

A shriek was heard! she appeared pale, panting, her hair dishevelled, one of her hands spotted with blood — she sprung towards him, for the bite of a viper marked a slow but sure death. The poor maiden, her head reclining on his shoulder, her hair hanging loosely, a tremulous smile playing on her lips, her gaze wavering and veiled, clasped in his beloved arms, died like Eurydice gathering flowers!

Weak minds bend under the shock of the loss of a great love... He built a poor-looking cottage up in the mountain and became a hermit. One morning they found him dead before his hut, his eyes half-open looking at the sky.

Many carriage-roads, some of which of handsome engineering construction, diverge from the principal road Andorno-Piedicavallo, to reach the numerous villages that are scattered on both sides of the valley. We shall mention the principal ones.

Ascending the valley, to the right:

From *Andorno* there is a carriage-road as far as **Tavigliano**. 64

Between the "frazioni", *Bogna* and *Balma* (N. 58) a carriage-road stretches as far as **Rialmosso**, whence, 65  
winding round the south flank of **Monte Pila** (N. 67), it proceeds to **Quittengo** and *Campiglia*, keeping high above the road of the valley.

From *Quittengo* another carriage-road descends to *Balma* near the Granite Quarries and another ascends in steep windings to **Orio di Mosso**, nestled at more 66  
than 3000 f. a. s. l. on the coast of the mountain, plainly visible from Biella.

Close to *Orio di Mosso*, a little lower, is **Monte** 67  
**Pila**, a fine "belvedere" of the valley.

From *Campiglia* a fine road ascends to the frazioni of **Piario** and **Forgnengo**.

At last from **Pinchi lo** (N. 62) a mule-path leads to 68  
**Montesinaro**, to which a carriage-road leads starting at the beginning of the village of *Piedicavallo*.

To the left, ascending the valley, the following roads diverge from the main one:

At *Sagliano*, crossing the Cervo over the picturesque bridge "*della Trinità*", a lane runs to the 69  
north, which, soon leaving to follow the torrent, ascends as far as **Oneglie**, whence it proceeds along the coast of the mountain to *Riabella* and *S. Paolo* (N. 72). 70

To the former place another road goes from the frazione of *Bogna* (N. 58).

Crossing the torrent, near the Quarries of *Balma*, a carriage-road of bold construction ascends as far as **Riabella**, running to the South.

- 71 From the bridge "*delle Fontane*", before Campiglia,  
72 another road takes to **San Paolo Cervo**.

After crossing that bridge, leaving the carriage-road for the mule-path that ascends to the north-west, one crosses the frazione of **S. Maria** and reaches the *Hospice of St. Giovanni* in a short time.

- From *St. Paolo Cervo* a nice little road runs to the  
73 *Hospice of St. Giovanni*, crossing the borgate of **Mortigliengo** and **Mazzuchetti**.



Woman of the valley  
of Andorno.

On the other side of the bridge of *Concesio* (N. 60) a beautiful carriage-road turns to the left and ascending gradually through the wooded slopes of the mountain, leads to the **Sanctuary of St. Giovanni**, the last of the three great Sanctuaries of the Biellese.

The latter one is also a large building and picturesquely situated. Like the Hospice of Oropa and Graglia, it affords accommodation for several days gratis. Here are two restaurants, one inside the

Hospice and the other just outside.

- 75 From the Hospice a carriage-road, recently constructed by the late Senatore F. Rosazza, runs in long windings along the steep flank east of *Monte Tovo*, till, passing under a tunnel 380 meters long, cut out in the rock, crosses the mountain under the *Valico della Colma* and emerges in the valley of **Oropa**, as far as the Sanctuary of the same name. Near the entrance of the Tunnel is a plain restaurant.



**Sanctuary of St. Giovanni.**



*From the Cervo to the Sessera.*

Beyond **Cossato** (N. 26) a carriage-road diverges from the high-road, and, turning to the north, skirts the village of **Lessona**, the houses of which 76 are scattered here and there on the hill. The road,



Coggiola.

often shaded by walnut and chestnut-trees, proceeds to **Mortigliengo** and **Croce Mosso**, the latter place 77 gracefully situated on the ridge of a hill. Crossing this village, one leaves to the left a road which ascends

to *Valle Superiore Mosso* and then descends again  
 78 to the valley of **Ponzone**, the road keeping to the  
 left side of the small torrent.

In this valley are many manufactories. To the right  
 it is skirted by sandy and red-tinted hills, which some  
 private owners are trying to convert into woods. At  
 the junction of the *Ponzone* and the *Sessera*, the  
 road crosses the latter over the *Ponte provinciale*  
 and thence a branch-road runs to the right, towards  
 79 **Crevacuore** and **Valle Sesia**, while another branch-  
 road, ascending the *Sessera*, passes through **Pianceri**  
 and **Pray**, ending at **Coggiola**, an important village  
 lying at the end of the valley, in a wooded moun-  
 tainous hollow.

The wool manufacture is very flourishing here. —  
 From Biella the traveller generally takes this road,  
 a drive from 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 4 hours.

From *Cossato*, before crossing the Strona, another  
 road turns to the north towards **Castellazzo** and  
 ascending the torrent, first on its right bank, then on  
 80 the opposite one arrives at **Valle Inferiore Mosso**,  
 the chief town of that valley.

A steam tramway runs along this valley, ending  
 at *Valle Inferiore Mosso*.

Beyond this place, continuing to ascend along the  
 torrent Strona, one meets at about a kilometer from  
 it, near the manufactory of signor Picco the high-  
 road coming from *Pettinengo* and *Pianezze* (N. 88)  
 and proceeds by it as far as **Mosso S. Maria**. The  
 pedestrian can reach it more rapidly by a mule-path  
 that starts from the last houses of *Valle Inferiore*  
*Mosso*.

Another carriage-road, recently constructed, goes from  
 81 *Valle inferiore Mosso* to **Croce Mosso**, its wind-  
 ings shaded by woods of chestnut-trees.

82 At the beginning of **Pavignano**, passing below the

Church, and soon after turning to the east, is another important road of communication between the western Biellese and the valleys of the Strona and Sessera; this road diverges from the high-road of Biella-An-dorno.

After an almost level tract of ground one leaves to the right a branch-road that goes to **Ronco** (N. 95), crosses a bridge, and soon after ascends in zigzags as far as **Zumaglia**, a well known summer resort. 83

The road proceeds, always ascending, among wooded slopes and with a broad panorama, till it reaches **Pet- 84 tinengo** noted for its old industry in hosiery.

After this village the road proceeds on level ground to the **Santuario di Banchette**, which rises to the 85 right of the road, on the ridge of the **Rovella** (from 86 here easily reached) and turning to the left, descends in the Valley of **Pianezze**.

The branch-road which, at *Pianezze*, turns to the left and crosses the bridge, leads to *Callabiana*. 87

The high-road, on the contrary, proceeds towards the east and follows the left bank of the torrent, as far as where two roads meet, near the manufactory of signor Picco (N. 80). The branch to the right soon 88 reaches **Valle Inferiore Mosso**, the one to the left, running along the wooded sides of the slope in long windings, reaches **Mosso S. Maria** in three quarters 89 of an hour — the latter place is a beautiful large village, which commands the valley of the Strona. On the Piazza of the church a monument was erected to the memory of *signor Sella*, an illustrious phil-anthropist and doctor.

After *Mosso S. Maria* the road proceeds on level ground as far as another cross-way (*vie Bolche*), whence 90 two roads diverge towards the Valley of Sessera.

One to the south runs towards the hill and soon reaches **Croce Mosso** (N. 78) whence, by the road of the Ponzone, it proceeds as far as the Valley of Sessera.

The other ascends to the north by wooded slopes, skirting some frazioni of the districts of **Trivero** 91 and **Portula**, then it descends steeply to **Coggiola** in the Valley of Sessera.

The roads here described are the principal ones which link into communication the different valleys, but there are many other carriage-roads: we shall mention the most important ones.

92 At **Chiavazza** (N. 24) instead of taking the high-road, one must cross the village and the Piazza at the end of it, and proceed to the left side of the church. Beyond the borgata of **Magliola**, the road descends into a small vale — higher up it commands the town of Biella and the Biellesi mountains — passes near 93 the “ frazione „ **Regis** and arrives at **Ronco Biellese**, a well-known village for the manufacture of terra-cotta wares, called “ bielline „.

Beyond *Ronco* the carriage-road proceeds as far 94 as **Ternengo**, whence, in less than half an hour, one can reach **Piatto** (N. 98).

95 From frazione *Regis* (N. 93) a carriage-road running along the western slope of the *Bric Zumaglia*, joins the high-road of Pettinengo, soon after the village of Pavignano (N. 82).

From *Ronco* another carriage-road runs on the opposite side of the hill and goes to *Zumaglia* (N. 83).

96 From **Bric Zumaglia**, which projects far into the plain, an extensive view is obtained. There are still some remains of an old castle.

Another carriage-road starts from the **Santuario di Banchette** (N. 85) skirting the south-west flank 97 of **Monte Rovella** and arrives at **Bioglio**, pleasantly situated on the ridge of a hill.

Here the carriage-roads run towards the south, which 98 after two kilometers, meet again and proceed to **Piatto**,

a pretty and quiet village. The road, always running to the south, goes to **Valdengo** and thence to the railway-station of the same name, on the high-road *Biella-Cossato*.

On the railway-line which runs along the high-road **Cossato-Valle Inferiore Mosso**, at a place where the train stops, called "Fermata Valle S. Nicolao," a carriage-road ascends in long zigzags to the village **Valle S. Nicolao**, and soon after diverges into two branches.

The one to the right, proceeding to the south-west, joins the road *Bioglio-Piatto* (N. 98) at the borgata **Croce**.

The one to the left descends towards the south, passes near **Vallanzengo** and crossing a fertile and 100. picturesque country, studded with many clusters of houses, arrives at **Quaregna**, a wine-district whence, 101 crossing the torrent *Quargnâsca*, it joins the high-road near *Cossato*.

From **Crosa**, on the high-road *Cossato-Lessona-Croce Mosso* (N. 76), a branch-road diverges to the right, from which two other branches run in different direction — the one to the north ascends to **Mortigliengo** — the one to the south passes near **Casa-** 102 **pinta** and then proceeds to **Masserano** (N. 28).

From the "Piazzetta," of **Andorno** a road runs 103 towards the east to the "frazione," **Locato**; it then descends into the little valley behind it, to ascend again, skirting many other frazioni, to **S. Giuseppe di Casto**, picturesquely situated.

It proceeds in long windings as far as **Cappella** 104 **S. Antonio di Marcone**, soon after which one meets a bifurcation. The one to the right leads to **Ribatto**, the one to the left runs to **Corte**, whence another branch diverges to the right and goes to **Callabiana**

and **Pianezze** (N. 87). The former branch to the left proceeds towards the north and leaving to the right another road which leads to many parts of **Camandona** and **Callabiana**, arrives in zigzags and through  
105 wooded slopes at **Camandona**.

Here are some of the so-called *Alpine colonies for poor children*. These colonies were instituted some years ago by the late *Senatore Dottore Lorenzo Bruno* of Turin, and this excellent institution was soon imitated by many other towns of north Italy. Each colony takes from twenty to thirty poor children on the Alps for a month, who come back to town, as one can easily imagine, with bonnie rosy cheeks. With the offering of ten thousand francs one can found an Alpine Colony.

From **Cerale** (**Callabiana**) a road descends towards the north to **Pianezze**, while another proceeds, skirt-  
106 ing a hill to the east, to **Veglio**, **Pistolesa**, as far as **Mosso S. Maria**.

After **Pavignano** (N. 82) a road diverges to the north from the high-road *Biella-Pettinengo* and leads  
107 to **Vaglio-Chiavazza** and to **Colma**, a pretty place near Andorno, communicating with the latter place by a broad path.

At a short distance from *Zumaglia* by the high-road, another branch-road diverges to the left and  
108 arrives at **Vaglio-Pettinengo** half hidden in the chestnut-trees.

Before a Chapel that one meets on the right at the beginning of *Pettinengo*, a carriage-road diverges from the high-road and coming back towards the west, leads almost always on level ground, to the quiet vil-  
109 lage of **Selve Marcone**, lying in the hill under the shelter of shady chestnut-trees and thence to the *Cap-*

*pella di S. Antonio Marcone*, and the route *Andorno-S. Giuseppe-Callabiana* (N. 104).

From **Crevacuore**, after crossing the torrent *Sessera*, a road runs to the south, at first through a wooded valley, which after becomes narrow and barren — it passes by **Sostegno - Castelletto-Villa - Villa** <sup>110</sup> **del Bosco** and **Roasio**, finally meeting the high-road of **Gattinara**, after **Brusnengo** and **Cura vecchia** (N. 27). Beyond **Sostegno** the scenery becomes more open and pleasant.

The former road, crossing the high-road proceeds in the same direction (south) and arrives at **Roasenda**. <sup>111</sup>



M. Rosa from M. Barone di Sessera

## EXCURSIONS

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### *From the Sanctuary of Graglia.*

#### *To the Poggio di S. Carlo and Bagneri.*

To the north of the Hospice, passing before the Hydropathic Establishment, is a little stony road that leads, in less than half an hour, to the upper **Poggio di S. Carlo** where a chapel is erected near a cluster of beeches. The view from there is fine and extensive.

From this *Poggio* a path plunges into deep woods and descends to the vallone, called "*Janka* ", crosses the torrent of the same name and ascends the opposite slope of green pasture-land, as far as **Bagneri** the small white church of which is seen from far off, among thickly spreading chestnut-trees. *Bagneri* is a cluster of few poor-looking huts, perched on the steep slope, in which the mountainers live during the winter months. During the summer they ascend to the "*Alpe* ", which means a hut high up in the mountain, for men and cattle during the pasture-time.

113 From *Bagneri* one can ascend to the **Salvine**, a few houses scattered on a green gentle slope of the *Mombarone*, with the dark background of the rocky sides of *Mount Mars* and *Mount Mucrone*.

To go back to the Sanctuary of Graglia one can follow another route, by a steep descent through lofty chestnut-  
114 trees, to the **Molino di Bagneri** on the *Janka*. From  
115 here one skirts the legendary **Canale dei Saraceni**  
(Canal of the Saracens) which, after a long course,

passes under a tunnel 400 m. long (1200 f. long) under the hill of **Campra** — over the latter is the little church of the *Madonna di Campra* (N. 37).

The shady path proceeds as far as the *Cappella della Samaritana*, where it meets the carriage-road of the *Sanctuary of Graglia*.

Near a cluster of houses, close to the *Molino di Ba-* 116  
*gneri*, a path diverges and descends to the torrent Elvo, crosses it on the bridge called **Ambrosetti** and ascends again to **Sordevolo** (N. 40).

### *To the Convent of the Trappa.*

Another path starts from the square of **Bagneri** (N. 112) and passing to the right of the humble cemetery, descends over steep slopes to the torrent Elvo, which can be crossed over by a primitive bridge.

On the opposite bank the path begins to ascend again, until it meets another little road that skirts a canal. — Following the latter in descent, one finds another path, which crosses it, ascending to the north. In three quarters of an hour, from the starting point, the **Trappa** is reached.

117

From the Sanctuary of Graglia, one can easily go to *Sordevolo*, descending first to the *Cappella della Samaritana*, then skirt the *Canale dei Saraceni*, go down to the Elvo and ascend again to where *Sordevolo* lies (see N. 116).

From the latter place, to the left of the *Fabbrica* 118  
*Sormano*, one skirts the canal, as far as the road (N. 117), crosses it and thence to the **Trappa**.

The late convent of the Trappa is a huge quadrilateral severe building, now almost a ruin. It is notable for its rising at 3000 f. a. s. l. on a gentle slope of Mount Mucrone.

### To Oropa.

From the *Sanctuary of Graglia* one can go to *Oropa*, passing through the *Trappa* (N. 117); from the latter one ascends as far as the **Alp Bose**, scaling the ridge of  
 119 the **Muanda** and one reaches the **Alpe** called **Alpetto** behind which a path proceeds almost on level ground along the side of the mount, and, passing at 600 f. above the *Hydropathic Establishment* of *Oropa*, reaches the *Sanctuary* by the road of the *Chapel* of *St. Joseph*.

A shorter way from *Graglia* to *Oropa* is to go to *Sordevolo*. From the last houses to the north of this village, one ascends to the **Chapel of St. Grato**, whence a fine view is obtained. From here a mule-path ascends towards the north-west and reaches the pretty *Villa Laura*, where another path diverges to the right and leads to the *Alpetto* (N. 119), thence to *Oropa*.

### From Oropa.

#### To the Sanctuary St. Giovanni.

To the north of the *Hospice of Oropa*, after having crossed the torrent over the new bridge near the **Cappella del Roc.** a carriage-road passes close to the  
 120 **Cappella di St. Eusebio** and, by long windings, ascends the west side of the mountain. In an hour one  
 121 reaches the **Galleria Rosazza** (tunnel *Rosazza*) (N. 75) and, crossing it, descends to **St. Giovanni**.

Starting from both places the pedestrian can shorten the way by taking by-lanes, easily discovered.

Before the construction of this carriage-road, one had to pass by the **Colle della Colma** to go from *Oropa* to *St. Giovanni*. This *Colle* is over the *tunnel Rosazza*, on the lower part between the *Cima del Tresson* (N. 164) and of the *Cimone* (N. 165). From this *Colle* is

a noble view overlooking both the valleys of *Oropa* and of *Cervo*. From the rocks over the little Votive Chapel are clearly visible parts of the Glaciers of Monte Rosa.

### *To the lake of Mucrone.*

Soon after the *Cappella of Sant' Eusebio* (N. 120) <sup>122</sup> from *Oropa* the traveller leaves the carriage-road for *St. Giovanni* and follows a good mule-path, which ascends towards the north crossing a wood of beeches, outside which rises a small votive Chapel.

Hence the mule-path proceeds to the **Piano della Pissa**, where are heaped huge rocks, precipitated from the upper steep side of the mountain. Further up and always following the mule-path, one gets to the **Alpe della Pissa**, so called after the water-fall close by. The mule-path ascends to the right, then, turning to the left, reaches the **Refuge Federico Rosazza**, near <sup>123</sup> the **Alpi della Strada**.

This Refuge was erected in 1895, by the Hospice of *Oropa*, with the concurrence of the Biella branch of the Italian Alpine Club and was called *Federico Rosazza*, in remembrance of the fine mule-path which he constructed at his own expense, from *Oropa* to the *Lago del Mucrone*.

The key of the refuge is kept, during the summer, by the peasants of the *Alpi della Strada* — during the other months the tourist must ask for the key at the Hospice of *Oropa*.

At the refuge there is good accommodation, and is a convenient starting-point for many excursions.

From the *Alpi della Strada* the mule-path proceeds <sup>124</sup> almost horizontally towards the west, and, in a quarter of an hour, reaches the **Lago del Mucrone**, the clear waters of which reflect the snowy steep sides of the *Mucrone*. In summer the *Lago del Mucrone* is daily visited by tourists, especially coming from *Oropa*.

***From Andorno.***  
***To the Sanctuary of Oropa.***

From *Andorno* one descends first to *Miagliano* (N. 56) and thence ascends a long flight of steps which lead to *Villa Poma*, from which a narrow road goes  
125 to the *Chalets Pradinetto* (N. 51).

A more frequented road is that which crosses *Sagliano*, then crosses the torrent *Cervo* on the picturesque **Ponte della Trinità** (Bridge of the Trinity)



Oropa arriving from Andorno.

126 and, turning to the right, ascends to the borgata *Code*, joining, soon after, the former road and the one coming from *S. Eurosia* (N. 51), near the *Casolari Pradinetto*.

From this the road ascends over gentle slopes the wooded sides of the mountain, passes through an arcade of the **Cappella della Croce Grande** and then turns into the Valley of Oropa, which valley is ascended on a higher part of the torrent.

On the opposite side the carriage-road Biella-Oropa is always seen distinctly.

Towards the end, the former road crosses a picturesque wood of beeches, then the torrent over a bridge just under the *Santuario* and ends on the square in front of the principal entrance.

This easy und beautiful walk is much recommended.

***To the Bocchetta di Sessera  
and Piana del Ponte.***

From *Andorno* we first go to *Tavigliano* (N. 64) and at the end of this village a mule-path starts, al-



Near the Piana del Ponte.

ways stretching towards the North and turning on the west side of **Monte Casto**, which Monte Casto is easily reached from here. The path, always following a

ridge between two torrents, gets to the **Bocchetta di Sessera**, that lies between the *Monticchio* and *Monte Marca*.

Near the *Bocchetta* a plain Alpine Inn was recently constructed.

A new road descends to the opposite side, turning to the right, and, by a long winding, joins the old road, which from the *Bocchetta* descends direct through thick woods, passing near some clusters of poorly thatched huts, then crosses the bridge over the *Sessera*, and reaches the houses of the **Piana del Ponte**, a much frequented spot by tourists. The *trotta* (trout) of the *Sessera* is well known as an excellent fish.

Going back to the *Bocchetta*, following the path that skirts the southern coast of *Monte Marca* one passes by the **Santuario del Mazzucco**, by *Caman-dona*, *Callabiana borgata Corte*, *St. Giuseppe di Casto* and at last *Andorno*. The latter road is longer than the former.

### *From Piedicavallo.*

#### *Lago della Vecchia (Lake of the old Woman).*

Two roads start from the Church of *Piedicavallo* — one ascends to the right, and goes to the *Mologna* (N. 222), the other proceeds to the north, passing under the counter-mure of the Church, and crossing many fine clusters of beech-trees, leads to some chalets called **Rosei** — not far from here the vegetation ceases. The mule-path proceeds, ascending over the steep and bare sides of the mountain, passes near the **Alpe Conetta**, crosses in sharp zigzags a very steep rocky part and reaches the **Alpe della Vecchia**.

The proprietor of this Alpe, the late *Senatore Rosazza*, had a kind of **Refuge** built there, for the accommodation of the tourist — the refuge is furnished.

From this Alpe the road leads to the **Lago della**

Vecchia, hemmed in by the rocky walls of *Monte Cresto*.

*The legend of the « Vecchia ».*

In the midst of that solemn grandeur of the Alpine scenery, lived the old legendary lady, whose faithful companion had been a bear. It is said that on her brow a royal crown had sat and that she had come to seek peace near the Alpine lake, where, in a golden coffin, rested her consort, whose great love she had cherished, during the happy years of her youth and in the splen-



Lake of the « Vecchia ».

dour of their reign. Near the Lake, at 5622 feet above the sea, she lived for many years, always thinking of her beloved husband, until her hair became as white as the snow which covers the neighbouring summits, and, perhaps when the rhododendrons and the Alpine roses blossomed again, and the snow no more covered the ice-bound surface of the lake, she fancied she saw, through the transparent water, a beloved countenance and a mysterious voice kept repeating to her, that like her consort, she would find eternal rest in the Alps.

When she died, the mountaineers, whom she had loaded with favours, wished her to rest under the greyish water, close to the golden coffin!

### *To the Selle di Rosazza.*

To the high green hillock, which rises over the village of *Rosazza*, is a pleasant and easy walk. Here a small church is erected and some chalets, called the  
133 **Selle di Rosazza**; this spot can be reached in less than an hour from *Rosazza*, as well as from *Piedicavallo*, two opposite roads.

The panorama is most interesting and both roads are easy and pleasant.

### *From Coggiola.*

#### *To the Santuario del Cavallero.*

An easy and most picturesque road, following the  
134 torrent *Sessera* reaches from *Coggiola* the **Santuario del Cavallero** (see N. 206).

#### *To the Santuario della Brovarola.*

From *Coggiola* to the *Alpi Noveis* (N. 205). Hence an easy road crosses gay meadows and leads, in less  
135 than an hour, to the **Santuario Brovarola**, in the territory of **Caprile**, from which place one can descend, by **Ailocche**, to **Crevacuore**.

Another narrow road, nearly always shady and on level ground, crosses the territory of **Caprile**, **Pray** and joins the borgate of **Fervazzo** and **Piletta**, whence one descends to the central part of the "comune", of *Coggiola*.

## ASCENSIONS

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### *Colma di Mombarone.*

The road most commonly taken passes by the **San-  
tuario di Graglia** and **Poggio di St. Carlo** (N.112).<sup>136</sup>  
Ascending the ridge that unites the Poggio (hillock)  
to the mountain, one proceeds by a path that runs  
half way up the coast, on the eastern side, through  
thick woods, passing successively near the **Alpi Paglie**<sup>137</sup>  
**di Sotto** and **Paglie di Sopra**. From the latter one  
ascends direct to the upper hillock, called **Bric Paglie**  
and thence, proceeding over the crest, the top is easily  
reached.

Another road passes by **Bagneri** and the **Salvine**<sup>138</sup>  
(N. 113), whence it proceeds almost as far as the upper  
**Cima Buscaglione**, passing successively near the **Alpi**<sup>139</sup>  
**Boretto**, **Lasazza** and **Baracche**. From the latter Alpe,  
just under the *Cima*, the path turns to the left and  
soon after gets difficult and rocky — one meets a rocky  
canal and climbing upward on the steep eastern side  
of the *Mombarone*, joins the high-road of *Graglia*, at  
a few minutes from the summit. This path is a real  
alpine road and presents some difficulties after the *Cima*  
*Buscaglione*.

### *Monte Roux and Béchit.*

These mountains lie on the extended north chain of  
*Mombarone* and are less interesting than their neigh-  
bouring mountains, *Mombarone* and *Mars*.

As far as the **Alpe Pian di Masere** see N. 212. From here one proceeds towards the **Colle della Lace** and from the ridge which precedes it by a hundred yards and on which is erected a signal (N. 213), the path is  
 140 abandoned and the top of **Monte Roux** is easily reached, turning to the right of some rocks commanding the crest.

From the summit of *Monte Roux*, proceeding over the easy and almost horizontal crest, one can go, in  
 141 less than half an hour, to the top of **Monte Béchit**, leaving to the left the last rocks on the precipice.

**Monte Béchit** can be reached direct from **Alpe Faudel** without passing by *Monte Roux*, by the steep grassy slope that descends from the top, turning also to the left, to avoid the last rocks.

142 Also from the **Croce di Carisei** (214) one can easily reach the top of **Monte Béchit** by the crest, which crest must be turned to avoid some difficult passes.

### *Monte Mars.*

The ascension of this mountain is more easy, if one follows the ordinary road, which ascends from the  
 143 **Refuge Rosazza** and the **Lago del Mucrone** (N. 124);  
 144 in an hour it reaches the **Colle** and **Laghetto** of **Monte Rosso**, leading always to the right and turning to the left only at ten minutes before the *Colle*.

From the **Refuge Rosazza** a path leads direct to this **Colle** — but it is not advisable to take it, without a guide.

From the *Colle* one descends for a hundred yards to the right, then proceeds horizontally towards the **Colle del Cardon**, that lies between *Monte Rosso* and *Monte Mars* and, without crossing it, one descends towards the valley of the *Elvo*. — By a steep and for a short grassy slope, one winds round the two first peaks of the crest; the latter is reached in a

few minutes — keeping always to the same side, one winds round a peak and the crest is followed again to cross the last rock (skirting a split) which stands over a giddy cleft of the crest. Then one must turn more to the left and in about twenty minutes the top is reached by the steep and green slope which leads to it.

Many other roads lead to *Monte Mars*.

From **Sordevolo** and **Graglia** one goes to the **Alpe** <sup>145</sup>  
**Tura** (N. 209) whence in two hours the top of the mountain can easily be reached, following the spur that ascends to the left from the steep gorge, called **Bonda Grande** as far as the southern crest of *Monte Mars*. When on the top, you turn for a hundred yards to the west declivity, to proceed soon again on the eastern one and from here you will reach the top in a few minutes.

From the valley of the **Elvo** another road, which starts from the **Alpe Sella** or from the **Croce di Carisei** <sup>146</sup>  
(N. 214), leads to the peak *Punta della Sella* which is <sup>147</sup>  
between the rocky southern crest of *Monte Mars* and the *valico di Carisei*. From that peak you descend a short way in a rocky vale, called **Caudina**, skirting on that side the precipitous crest and, by a steep and narrow gorge, you reach the crest in one of its clefts, almost at the bottom of the vale of *Caudina*. Then you turn to the eastern side of the **Elvo** and by a path, scarcely traced, running along the crest according to its unevenness, you reach the summit.

Lastly *Monte Mars* can be ascended from its north- <sup>148</sup>  
west crest — going by **Lago Vargno** (N. 216) to the **Alpe Crest** and **Plan du Zuc**, thence to the summit of the mountain, up the steep crest. For the tourist who makes this excursion from the *valley of Lys*, this last way is preferable, instead of going to the **Col of Cardon** to reach the ordinary route (N. 144).

**Monte Mars** is the most important peak of the Pre-Alps of the Biellese, both for its height and for

its being difficult to ascend. The summit of this mountain commands a noble panorama. Its steep sides are covered with a dry and prickly grass, called "siùn", in patois, over which one must be careful not to slip.

### *Monte Mucrone.*

149 From the **Lago del Mucrone** (N. 124) in twenty minutes one reaches the **Bocchetta del Lago**.

From this latter place keep to the left on the side of the **Elvo**, arriving at the crest about half way up the mountain and, avoiding both to the right and to the left some huge rocks, you easily reach the summit.

This is the ordinary route from **Oropa** and the easiest.

There are others more interesting for Alpinists.

From **Favaro** by the **Alpi Panatera**, **Signora**, **Deir**, or from **Sordevolo** by those called **Alpetto** (N. 119),  
150 **Deir rosso**, you reach the **Bocchetta del Limbo**, just under the characteristic top of *Monte Mucrone*.

Another way is that from **Oropa**, passing by the **Cappella del Paradiso**, and through a wood of beeches up the **Alpe** called **Pian di Gè** reaching the *Rocchetta del Limbo*.

Not far from the **Bocchetta del Limbo**, a rather difficult path, turning to the west, crosses almost horizontally the precipitous side of the mountain and in ten minutes a small grassy plateau is reached on the west side. This way is called: **The pass of Traversagna**. One must be careful not to slip on the "Siùn", (dry and prickly grass).

Further up the path skirts, now ascending now descending, the last spurs of *Monte Mucrone*, among a maze of rocks which roll in the torrent **Elvo**. Ascend the second gorge, which you meet as far as the crest and thence to the top, which is not far off.

A more interesting, but more difficult route is that  
151 direct from the **Bocchetta del Limbo**. Turning first

to the side of Oropa, one ascends part of a gorge, then turns to the left as far as a grassy very narrow plateau, half way up the southern vertical side, which then presents itself before the traveller, till the crest and from the latter to the summit.

Over the crest, to the south of the summit, a huge iron *Cross* rises, plainly visible from the valley.

### *Monte Rosso.*

This mountain is ascended in a short time from the **Laghetto del Monte Rosso** (N. 144), by the easy crest <sup>152</sup> that goes up towards the north.

Another way is that by the **Colle della Barma d'Oropa** (N. 156) taking the crest to the south, which is not always easy to ascend and must be often skirted.

The peak of minor importance, between the *Bocchetta del Lago* and the *Colle del Monte Rosso*, easily reached from both sides, is called **Monte Rossetto**. <sup>153</sup>

### *Punta della Croce or della Barma.*

At a quarter of an hour's walk from the **Refuge** <sup>154</sup> **Rosazza**, you leave aside the path which goes to *Monte Camino* (N. 158) and you take another path to the left, which crosses a sinuosity and ascends northward up a side of the mountain called **La Ceva**. A tract <sup>155</sup> of level ground divides the summit of the *Ceva* from the rocky crest in a deep cutting from which rises a small votive *Chapel* and a *Cross*. This is called the pass of the **Barma di Oropa** (N. 216) — the slender <sup>156</sup> little peak that rises to the north of it, is called the **Punta della Croce**. It can be easily reached from the *Colle* and it is as interesting an excursion as that of *Monte Camino* close to it.

## *Monte Camino.*

- 157 The summit of this mountain is easily reached, ascending over the side which, from the top of the **Ceva** (N. 155), runs to the right of the *Punta della Croce*: this is the shortest and the most recommendable route for the variety of scenery.

The easiest route that most people take is the one that starts near the **Refuge Rosazza**, passes over the rocks along the same refuge and proceeding to the north by easy little vales and ridges, arrives at the  
158 **Alpe Camino**. From the latter place, the peak of the same name is easily reached, by the grassy slope which ascends to the crest.

The ascension of **Monte Camino** is of the easiest and the scenery most interesting.

The top of **Monte Camino** can also be reached by the crest which rises from the **Bocchetta di Finestre** (N. 160), but this route is neither easy nor interesting and much longer than the others.

## *Monte Tovo.*

- 159 At the **Refuge Rosazza** a path, turning to the north, leads to the **Alpe Trotta**, nearly always on a level ground — from this **Alpe**, over a steep way, it  
160 reaches the **Bocchetta di Finestre**, deeply cut out between *Monte Camino* and *Monte Tovo*, which rises to the east. In half an hour one gets to the summit, direct from the *Bocchetta*.

- 161 A more interesting and shorter route is that which follows for a very short time the mule-path from **Oropa** to the *Lago* (N. 122), then diverges to cross a wood of beeches and arrives at the **Alpe Gias Comun**. Here the path turns to the left, ascending the ridge which higher up is attached to the crest and from the latter summit is easily reached.

The summit of **Monte Tovo** is also reached passing by the **Colle della Colma** (N. 121), crossing the **Cima Tresson** (N. 164), always following the crest. Quite close to the summit are some difficult passes. 162

Another and the last route to **Monte Tovo** is from 163 the **Santuario di St. Giovanni**, up the vale of **Rio Bele**, by the **Alpe** of the same name, and of **Pera**, thence following a rough path up to the crest and to the top.

**Monte Tovo** is not so high as its neighbouring peaks, but it is as interesting for the splendid panorama one has from its summit.

### *Cima Tresson.*

This peak rises to the north of the **Colle della Colma** (N. 121) and from the latter it can be easily reached. 164

### *Becco or Cimone del Campo.*

Following the crest which rises to the south of the **Colle della Colma** (N. 121) the summit is easily reached. The panorama is somewhat interesting.

The descent to **Andorno** or **St. Eurosia** by the convenient ridge towards the east covered with fresh pasture-land, is a pleasant walk. 165

### *Punta della Gragliasca.*

Is easily reached from the **Colle della Gragliasca** (N. 218), ascending the south-eastern crest. Not very interesting. 166

## ***Punta di Pietra Bianca***

*(Peak of the White Stone).*

Takes its name from a stripe of white stones that surround its summit.

- 167 It rises between the **Colle della Gragliasca** (N. 218) and the one of **Torrison** (N. 219), and from both one easily reaches the summit by the crest.

## ***Monte Cresto or Picass.***

- 168 From **Piedicavallo** take the road of the **Vecchia** (N. 131) and at twenty minutes from the village, you will meet a *pilone* (pilaster) to the left of the road. Hence a path descends to a cluster of huts called  
169 **Pianlin**, beyond which the torrents *Cona* (Cervo) and *Conetta* (Irogna) meet, the two forming the torrent *Cervo*. Cross the former over a bridge, near the little cascade of **Pianlin** and ascend the course of the *Conetta*, at first at a short distance from it, then walking in its very bed. After crossing it, one reaches the **Alpe Olmo**, over which hangs a huge rock, then by the winding and steep path, through thick woods, you  
170 reach the **Piano d'Irogna**, on which rise several huts inhabited by shepherds.

An old legend narrates that in this place the witches of the valley meet, and truly the strange and severely picturesque panorama is such to excite the fancy of the peasants.

From *Irogna* another path, to the right, takes you nearly always over level ground to the **Lago della Vecchia**.

The path proceeds up and reaches the **Alpe Scala**, then, to the left, you cross the stream *Sücc* (rio asciutto — dry stream) and you arrive at the **Alpe Giasprëtt** — from here the path continues over scat-

tered rocks, now steep now on a level, it passes to the left of the small **Lake of the Torison** and, in a quarter of an hour, you reach the summit of **Colle Torison**, also called **Colle del Cresto**, on the lower 171 part of the mountain. From this *Colle* the summit is easily reached in half an hour, turning to the right by the steep grassy slope on the side of the *Lys* (west).

From the **Lago della Vecchia** (N. 132) you proceed 172 for some time along the mule-path of the *Colle* (N. 220), and then turn to the right, to go round the base of the *Punta della Vecchia*, then by a steep little path, you arrive at a narrow passage to the left of it, called, in patois, **Colle delle Tote** (Colle of the young ladies) (1).

From this place, by a very rough crest which surrounds the Lake, one gets to the summit of **Monte Cresto**.

The panorama from the top of **Monte Cresto** equals that of *Monte Bo* and its ascension is more interesting.

### *Cima Beguet.*

From the crest which, from the summit of **Monte** 173 **Cresto**, descends to the **Valico delle Tote** (N. 172), a branch diverges at a certain point and projects into the valley of *Gressoney*, forming the peak **Beguet**. It is ascended either following or skirting the crest which unites it to *Monte Cresto*.

The panorama from this peak is not extensive, owing to the immediate vicinity of higher peaks, but the view on the valley of the *Lys* is most interesting.

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(1) So called after an excursion of some members of the **Alpine Club** to **Monte Cresto**, from which they descended on this side and three young ladies of Biella were of the party.

### *Punta della Vecchia.*

- 174 From the **Lake of the Vecchia** the mule-path proceeds as far as the **Colle** of the same name (N. 220), to the left of which, the **Punta della Vecchia**, rises steeply -- from the **Colle** the peak is not easily reached by the crest, which you must often skirt.

Another route is from the **Valico delle Tote** (N. 173) following the ridge of rocks that descends on that side.

The mountainous chain from the **Colle della Vecchia** rises towards the north-east to the

### *Punta Chaparelle*

- 175 beyond which the chain is less high at the **Bocchetta di Gruveri** (N. 221). Then turning to the north it rises again at the

### *Punta Serange*

- 176 on the other side of which is cut out the **Valico di Mologna Piccola** (N. 222). At last it turns direct to the east in an elevated and uneven rocky crest, over which rise the

- 177 *Gemelli of Mologna (Twins of Mologna)*

and becomes again lower at the **Colle della Mologna Grande** (N. 224).

All these peaks, more or less interesting, are reached by the passes over which they rise.

Beyond the **Mologna Grande** rises the

## ***Punta dei tre Vescovi*** (Peak of the three Bishops)

which forms the extremity of the mountainous amphitheatre of the Biellese. 178

Its summit is reached by the path which starts from the **Mologna Grande**, descending for about a quarter of an hour on the side of the **Lys** (north-west), then it diverges to the left and you arrive at the crest by the grassy slope, then at the summit turning on the north side.

From the **Punta dei tre Vescovi** the mountainous chain proceeds towards the east, forming some small peaks of little importance, among which **Monte Rosso**, 179 as far as the **Bocchetta del Croso**, upon which rises towards the South-East

## ***Monte Bo.***

From *Piedicavallo* to *Montesinaro* see N. 68.

From the latter a mule-path ascends the vale of 180 *Chiobia*, leading successively to the **Alpi Piana degli Agnelli**, *Chiobia* and **Finestre** and proceeds as far as the *Bocchetta del Croso*.

From the **Alpe Finestre** towards the east a path 181 diverges and leads to the **Alpi Giassët** and **Balmone**, reaches a kind of plateau called **Piazza d'Armi**, then the opposite crest and, in a quarter of an hour, the summit. The rocks that rise to the right of *Piazza* 182 *d'Armi*, are called **Roccie del Bergamasco**.

At the **Alpe Giassët** one can easily spend the night on camp beds.

Another route, more alpine like and interesting, leads 183 to **Monte Bo** from **Campiglia Cervo**. From this village a mule-path leads, in half an hour, to the vil-

lage called **Piario**, at the end of which there is a well traced path, crossing meadows and groves of chestnut-trees. It then ascends towards the vale of *Concabbia*, crosses a little stream and ascends to the **Alpe Cortetto**, half hidden in a wood of beech-trees. Hence, in a little more than half an hour, one reaches a place called **Teggie** (1) **del Campo**, consisting of clusters of shepherds' huts scattered on the grassy slope, then **Piano della Tocca** and finally, by sharp zigzags, 184 one arrives at **Bocchetta d'Isolà** or **Bassa della Cavallina**. Then ascending the ridge of the mountain, 185 the path leads to the **Punta del Cravile** which one need not cross. At half way, between the *Bocchetta d'Isolà* and the above peak, a path runs on the west side, crosses the crest which divides the vales of *Concabbia* and *Valdëscola* and then proceeds, ascending gently, as far as the *Roccie del Bergamasco* (N. 182) at two hundred meters below the crest. Before arriving at the latter place, just under the summit of **Monte Bo**, one must leave the path, to ascend, in sharp zigzags, the last two hundred meters to the summit.

From valley **Sessera** two ways lead to the summit:  
 186 By the **Piana del Ponte** a road leads to the **Teggie Artignaja** and to the **Alpe Isolà di sotto**; then one ascends to **Alpe Isolà di sopra** and to **Bassa della Cavallina** (N. 184) and from here to the top, following the same road above described. — Another  
 187 road from the **Piana del Ponte** continues to ascend along the torrent, passes near **Alpe Balma delle Basse** and some small lakes close by, then, crossing a ridge, skirts the steep eastern flank of **Monte Bo** and joins, on the northern crest, the road coming from *Giassët* (N. 181), at a quarter of an hour's distance from the summit.

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(1) « *Teggia* » means, like « *Alpe* », huts for sheperds.

At eighteen meters from the summit, on the western slope, rises a refuge-hut "**Capanna del Bo**", of the 188 Italian Alpine Club (sezione Biella). One can pass the night here. A key of the refuge is kept by the inn-keeper at *Piedicavallo*; another by a school-master at *Montesinaro* and a third by the peasants living at *Alpe del Giassët*.

The panorama from **Monte Bo** is one of the finest in the Biellese region and the ascent (via *Montesinaro* especially) quite easy and not at all dangerous.

If the other route is taken from *Bassa della Cavallina*, one must be careful when walking on the *siun* (slippery grass).

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From the peak of **Monte Bo**, an easy ridge descends towards the south, to divide the valley of the Cervo from that of the Sessera, forming successively the **Punta del Manzo**, **del Cravile** (N. 185), **Cime delle** 189 **Guardie**, **del Bonom**, **Monticchio** and **Monte Marca**. Between the last two is the *Bocchetta di Sessera*. Beyond *Monte Marca*, rises

### ***Rocca d'Arsimonia.***

From *Bocchetta di Sessera* (N. 128), by the easy 190 ridge to the east, one crosses **Monte Marca** and one descends to **Colle di Monticchio**. Thence, by a path, 191 rather easily found, one skirts two of the three peaks that form the **Rocca d'Arsimonia** and, by a crest, one reaches the third, that is the highest. The crest is rather rough and between the second peak and the highest is a deep cutting, so that it is necessary to descend for some yards on the southern side.

Another route to **Rocca d'Arsimonia** is from the 192 north of **Mosso S. Maria**, passing through the frazioni of **Oretto**, **Marchetto** and **Capo di Mosso**, whence, turning to the west, a path runs over an

easy ridge and enters a small valley. It ascends in the opposite slope in sharp zigzags, then runs to the north, by the grassy flank of the mountain, as far as  
 198 **Alpe Pratetto**, not far from **Bocchetta di Luvera**, which extends to the east of *Rocca d' Arsimonia*. The summit is reached by a path which ascends the rocky little vale, just under the eastern crest of the mountain.

194 To the east of the *Bocchetta di Luvera* is the **Bocchetta di Margosio**, which has no interest except as a route of communication — then the chain rises a little as far as **S. Bernardo**, an easily ascended peak and thence descends to the *Sessera*, near *Coggiola*.

### *San Bernardo.*

195 From **Mosso S. Maria** one goes to the next frazione called **Borgata Sella** and after crossing it, one takes the mule-path, which starts from the north end,  
 193 reaching in a quarter of an hour the **Oratorio della Brughera**, whence a path proceeds by gentle ascent on the eastern side of the mountain as far as the top (2  $\frac{1}{2}$  hours from *Valle Superiore Mosso*).

197 An easier but longer path goes from **Trivero-Borgata Lora** (N 91) and leads almost uninterruptedly on level ground to the beginning of **Borgata Castagnea**. Hence, crossing a luxuriant forest of pines and firs, a private property ascends towards the west  
 198 to **Bocchetta di Caulera**, and thence, skirting the north side, arrives at **Bocchetta di Stavello**, whence, by the northern ridge, one arrives at the summit.

This route is also followed starting from **Coggiola** and going direct to **Borgata Castagnea**.

On the top of **S. Bernardo** rises a chapel, dedicated to the saint of the same name, erected by the neighbouring inhabitants in memory of the victory over the heretic **Fra Dolcino** after a long and san-

guinary struggle. On the upper floor are some rooms, serving as a Refuge to travellers. One must ask the Priore of the Chiesa Matrice of Trivero for the key.

From the **Cima del Talamone**, on the northern crest of **Monte Bo**, a mountainous chain starts towards the north-east, proceeding to the east, thus dividing the Biellese from the Valsesia.

A steep spur rises to the south, at the **Bocchetta della Boscarola** where the chain lowers, obliging the torrent Sesslera to make a sharp turn; then the chain proceeds in the original direction, decliving gently near *Crevacuore*.

On this chain there are no peaks of great importance, except **Monte Barone**, that rises to the north of *Coggiola* at the end of the chain.

### ***Monte Barone di Sesslera.***

From the **Borgata Zuccaro**, to the north of *Coggiola*, a well-shaded and rather steep mule-path ascends to **Borgata Rivò**. Hence a small road runs towards the north-west over grassy ridges and, passing near some *Alpi*, turns soon after to the north in the deep little vale of *Cavallero* — it crosses it and ascends the opposite slope, passing the **Cappella del Foscale**, crossing a cutting of the upper spur. The well-traced path descends for a while and then reascends as far as **Alpe Ponasca**, where we recommend the traveller to pass the night, in order to see the sunrise on the next morning from the summit.

From *Alpe Ponasca* one ascends in sharp zigzags the upper grassy slope as far as the crest, by which in a short time one reaches the top.

From the centre of *Coggiola* starts another road, which, passing through some woods, ascends to **Borgata Viera** proceeding to the north of the latter place, turns soon after to the west, passes near the

**Alpi Le Piane** and running down through gentle pasture-lands, joins in the vale of *Cavallero* the road we described previously.

- 204 From the **Borgata Viera** instead of turning to the *Alpe Piane* (N. 203) another road proceeds to the north-west as far as **Borgata Biolla** and thence, by  
 205 the wooded ridge, towards the **Alpi di Noveis**, where, during the summer months, two plain *cantine* (small inns) are kept open and where one can rest and procure some food. The road proceeds towards the side of *Coggiola*, as far as the **Bocchetta di Noveis**, cut out in the upper spur one must cross it and turning to the north-west side, one skirts the rough slopes of **Monte Gemevola**, through some rather curious passages, until one re-ascends to the crest and joins the spur rising from **Alpe Ponasca** (N. 201) and thence to the summit.

206. There is finally another road, which, starting from **Coggiola** and passing through the *Borgata Zuccaro*, ascends by an easy mule-path the left bank of the torrent *Sessera*, as far as the **Santuario di Cavallero** half hidden in the luxuriant vegetation, whence a road proceeds, for a while, along the torrent, which it abandons after, to ascend, crossing a stream, to the north-west of the wooded slope, after which it reaches the **Cappelletta di Carecca**, that rises high up on an easy ridge. Here the vegetation ends and the mule-path proceeds, less steeply, to the **Alpe i Campetti**, situated at the end of a spur, that descends from the summit; crossing the above spur and skirting it on the eastern flank as far as **Alpe il Campo** in a picturesque part of the mountain, one reaches the top by the last steep slope.

From **Monte Barone** one has magnificent scenery over the plain, the Lombard Lakes and Monte Rosa.

## PASSAGES AND PASSES

### Passes in the interior valleys.

From *Graglia* to *Oropa*.

#### Bocchetta del Lago.

From *Graglia* to the *Salvine* (N. 113). Instead of going beyond the *Salvine*, take the path that skirts the huts of the same name — this path descends a little to find a passage (and there is a very strange one) among heaped rocks, that descend to the torrent *Elvo* from *Buscaglione* — it soon reaches the *Alpe Bogela*. Hence it gently descends to the torrent, passes near an iron-bridge over the *Elvo* at the foot of a spur of *Monte Mucrone* projecting into the valley. From here, always keeping to the right bank of the torrent, it reaches the *Alpi Le Piane*, then ascends to the *Alpi Balmone* and *La Tura*. At this place two paths diverge — one ascends (northward) to the *Colle di Cardon* — the other (eastward) crosses a broad “*ciapei*,” (mass of rocks) and ascends to the *Bocchetta del Lago*, which is cut out at the foot of the northern crest of *Monte Mucrone*.

From the *Alpe Balmone* (N. 208) one can shorten the way. Crossing the torrent near a little fall, one soon reaches the *Alpe Balmetta*, whence one ascends the course of the torrent (without going much out of the way) as far as the source of it and thence to the upper

- 210 **Bocchetta del Lago.** The traveller is warned not to be tempted to follow other paths to the right.

From the *Bocchetta del Lago* one descends to **Lago del Mucrone**, to the **Refuge Rosazza** and to **Oropa** (N. 149). This crossing is very long.

From *Oropa* to *Rosazza*.

Besides the carriage-road which runs from *Oropa* to *St. Giovanni* (N. 120) and to the *Colle della Colma* (N. 121) there is another way by the

**Bocchetta di Finestre.**

- From **Oropa** to the latter place see N. 159. From 211 **Bocchetta** one must descend into the barren valley of *Gragliasca*, as far as **Alpe Bajetta** and thence one meets the mule-path to the *Colle della Gragliasca* (N. 218) near the torrent and then to **Rosazza**. This pass is not very interesting.

From *Andorno* to the *Valle del Sessera*.

**Bocchetta di Sessera.**

From **Andorno** to the **Piana del Ponte** by the *Bocchetta di Sessera* see N. 127.

**Passages and passes to the valley of Aoste.**

From **Biella** to **Ivrea** by the *Lake of Viverone* — a carriage-road (see N. 16-19).

From **Biella** to **Ivrea** by the *Serra* — a carriage-road (see N. 2-7).

From **Biella** to **Graglia** and **Andrate** (N. 29-36).

From *Andrate*, by an easy but flinty road, one descends to **Nomaglio** and **Settimo Vittone** or to **Borgofranco** on the railway-line Ivrea-Aoste. The above route has partly a carriage-road and partly a mule-path.

## Passes from to the valley of the Elvo to the valley of Gressoney.

### Colle della Lace

between *Mombarone* and *Monte Roux*.

From **Graglia**, by the *Salvine* and as far as *Alpe Bogela* see N. 207. From the latter one leaves the path that runs to the right and proceeds towards the *Piane* (N. 208) and in three quarters of an hour one ascends to the above **Alpe Lace di sotto**, then in ten minutes one meets an isolated hut and after the **Alpi Lace Alto** and **Pian di Masere**. Turning towards the right one ascends for about a quarter of an hour and comes across a <sup>212</sup> path, which runs northward almost on level ground, from the *Colle della Lace* to the *Colle di Carisei*, under the mountainous crest. Passing over a ridge, on which a signal is erected, one reaches the **Colle della** <sup>213</sup> **Lace** in a few minutes and not far from there the **Alpe Lace del Vittùn** (called, in derision by the peasants, the inhabitants of the lower Valley of Gressoney as far as Fontainemore).

The path having descended a little on the opposite slope, passes over a spur, which comes down from *Monte Roux*, in one of its hollows, called **Colle del Giassù** and then descends along the torrent of the same name, meeting many "alpi", crosses it and keeping high above the torrent, descends steeply to **Lillianes**, on the road *Pont St. Martin-Gressoney*.

**Colle di Carisei**between *Monte Bechit* and *Monte Mars*.

- 214 From the **Alpe le Piane** (N. 208) one ascends directly by their ridge to the **Alpi Er Comune** and **Colombaro** as far as the towering **Colle di Carisei**, which is formed on the north side of *Monte Bechit*.

Also from **Alpe Faudel** (N. 141) a path skirting the north slope, nearly always on level ground, reaches the **Alpe Colombaro** and thence goes to the *Colle*.

On this pass a *Cröss* is erected, called **La Croce di Carisei**.

One descends to the opposite side passing over masses of rocks, and reaches the **Alpi Carisei**. Keeping afterwards high above the torrent, one arrives at the **Alpe Vercosa** and at many other alpi — at last at the village *Chicail*, whence to **Fontainemore** on the road to the Valley of Gressoney.

**Colle di Cardon**between *Monte Mars* and *Monte Rosso*.

- 215 From the valley of the Elvo by the **Alpe Tura**, the **Colle** (N. 216) is reached (N. 209). From this, descending on the opposite side, one arrives at the **Lago della Balma**, and there meets the road coming from the *Colle della Barma* (N. 216).

**Pass from the valley of Oropa  
to the valley of Gressoney.**

**Colle della Barma d'Oropa o della Croce Grande**  
between *Monte Rosso* and the *Punta della Croce*.

From the valley of Oropa to the **Colle della Barma**, see N. 156.

From this a well-traced road descends, turning to the north; the tourist leaves to the left the **Lago della Balma** and a smaller lake close to it. At this place a path diverges to the right, which, in a gentle ascent, leads to the *Lake Gran Gias* on the *Colle della Gragliasca* (N. 218).

One descends by the primitive road, leaving to the right two other small lakes, one passes near the **Alpe Lei-Long** from which one soon descends to the **Alpe Vargno**, not far from the picturesque lake of the same name. From **Alpe Vargno** the path descends somewhat and crosses the torrent plunging into a fine pine-wood, skirting for a while a gorge and reaches the village **Pillaz**, from which by steep flinty stairs, one descends to **Fontainemore** in an hour.

Whoever wishes to go more into the interior of the valley of Gressoney, must leave the path above described at 200 meters below the *Alpe Vargno* and, descending to the torrent, cross it over a small bridge. On the opposite side the path proceeds, at times in gentle ascent, high above the torrent, then turns to the north and by wooded slopes descend to the road of the valley, just before **Issime**.

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## Passes from the valley of the Cervo to the valley of Gressoney.

### Colle della Gragliasca

between the peaks of *Gragliasca* and of *Pietra Bianca*.

From **Rosazza**, after having crossed the bridge beyond the church, one ascends the torrent *Pregnetta* and, passing near some groups of huts, crosses it near the *Pilone St. Giovanni*. The mule-path proceeds up the narrow and rocky valley, skirting the **Alpi Piane** and

**Frabose** and ascends, in a winding direction, to the **Colle della Gragliasca**, which rises at the end of the valley. After crossing this pass, the path descends to the small lake below, called **Gran Gias** and thence joins, at the **Alpe Vargno**, the road proceeding from the *Colle della Barma* (N. 216) and goes by it to **Fontaine-more** or **Issime**.

### Colle del Torison

between the *Punta Pietra Bianca* and *Monte Cresto*.

- 219 From **Piedicavallo** to the **Colle di Torison**, see N. 168. From this pass one descends keeping constantly to the right of the valley, passing by the **Alpi Cresto**, **Torison** and others as far as the village **Vareila**, whence one meets the road in the valley, just before **Issime**.

### Colle della Vecchia

between the peaks of the *Vecchia* and *Chaparelle*.

- 220 From **Piedicavallo** to the **Lago della Vecchia**, see N. 168. Above the Lake the road proceeds to the north-west, in numerous windings as far as the **Colle** above it, whence the tourist obtains a magnificent view. Not far from this one sees two figures, representing the junction of the valley of *Cervo* and *Lys*. The mule-path as far as the **Colle** was constructed by the late **Senatore Rosazza**.

From the **Colle** the road at first descends to the north-west, crosses a small vale and ascends on the opposite side over the spur, coming from the Peak *Chaparelle* by which it descends rapidly as far as the **Alpe Can-de-la-baz** on the slope of the *Lys* and thence, turning towards the north, to **Gaby** on the road of the Valley.

**Bocchetta di Grüveri**

between the peaks *Chaparelle* and *Serange*.

This pass is frequented by the peasants of the valley <sup>221</sup> only. One can reach it, skirting to the east, the spur which descends from the *Punta Serange* to divide the valley of the *Vecchia* from that of *Mologna*. After having reached and crossed the **Bocchetta**, one must go along the north slope and, in gentle ascent, meet the road coming from the *Mologna piccola* (N. 222) at 200 meters below that pass.

**Colle della Mologna Piccola**

between the *Punta Serange* and the *Gemelli di Mologna*.

From the church of **Piedicavallo** one leaves to the <sup>222</sup> left the road which leads to the *Lago della Vecchia* (N. 131) and ascends between the houses above the church. Then through numerous clusters of beech-trees one reaches the huts called **Montà**, beyond which the vegetation ceases and here, on the rocky mountain, the mule-path ascends to the right of the torrent, as far as **Alpe Anval**. From this the road ascends for a while <sup>223</sup> towards the north, then turns to the west at the foot of a steep precipice, and ascends by zigzags to the **Colle della Mologna Piccola** deeply cut in the crest. The above mule-path was constructed by the Alpine Club: near the Colle a memorial tablet was erected and on it are the names of some members who generously met some of the expenses.

The descent can be made, at the beginning, over a hollow full of scattered rocks, then it emerges to the right on grassy slopes and gradually plunges into a pine-wood. Issuing from the latter, one finds oneself on a slope of fine pasture-land, at the end of which lies the poor village of *Niel*. After crossing it the road skirts for some time the brink of a steep pre-

cipice which opens over the torrent — then it proceeds again over pasture-land, reaches a small Chapel called *dei Morti* (of the Dead), because the funerals coming from the high mountains make a halt there.

From this place one can descend to **Gaby** in a short time over the steep slope, or can reach the road of the valley, higher up, near **Trento** turning towards the north, by a path that ascends a cavity coming from the *Lys*.

### Colle della Mologna Grande

between the *Gemelli di Mologna* and the  
*Punta dei tre Vescovi*.

- 224 Not far from the **Alpe Anval** (N. 223) from the mule-path of the *Mologna piccola*, a path diverges to the right, ascends the vale, without deviating too much from the torrent, skirts another " **Alpe** ", and, above the latter, reaches the **Colle della Mologna Grande**.

- After crossing it, the path is nearly always level over the upper part of the valley on the other side, under the crest which projects to the north, passes near a fresh and clear spring, called " *dell'Asino* ",  
225 and soon reaches the **Colle di Loozonei**. From this the path enters a fine pasture-land and crossing it,  
226 reaches the path coming from the **Colle di Loo** (N. 231), with which it proceeds towards the west in the broad and picturesque vale of fertile pastures, skirting the **Alpe Loo Superiore** and **Loo Inferiore**. From the latter, following the course of the torrent, which rushes in many little waterfalls, descends rapidly through a fine pine-wood as far as the village **Champsil** on the road of the valley.

### Colli della Gronda e di Loo.

- 227 From **Piedicavallo** one follows the road to the *Cima Bo* as far as **Alpe Finestre** (N. 180). Leaving here the

mule-path, one ascends the slope stretching above the Alpe, as far as **Colle della Gronda**, which projects 228 from the eastern part of the crest of *Monte Rosso*. After this pass a very pretty path skirts the steep side of the mountain towards the west, and descends to the picturesque small **Lake of Lamassa**, near which rises 229 the **Alpe** of the same name, at the end of an amphitheatre of huge rough rocks. The path runs up among the latter much more easily than it would seem at first and, after crossing them, proceeds by a turning to the



The small lake of Lamassa.

north, over a grassy level-ground intersected by a small torrent, where rises the **Alpe del Prato**. Beyond 230 this plateau, following the direction of the torrent, one ascends another steep slope to the west, crosses over the **Colle di Loo** first above it, and one descends gently 231 to meet, on the beautiful plateau **Piano di Loo** the road proceeding from *Mologna Grande* (N. 226).

Near the Lake of *Lamassa*, as well as in the plateau del *Prato*, many beautiful "eriofori," (small fluffy silvery flowers) grow.

## Passes to the Valsesia.

### Colle del Macagno.

From **Piedicavallo** to the **Piano di Loo**, see from N. 224 to 231. A little further up to the place where the paths issuing from the *Colle di Loozonei* (N. 226) and *Colle di Loo* meet, both descending to the valley of Gressoney, a path diverges to the right end, by a rapid slope, joins at the north the **Colle del Macagno**. Hence the fine *Monte della Meja* presents itself to the traveller, easily reached from the *Alpe del Macagno* or by its eastern crest.

From the *Colle* one descends to the lower hollow as far as the **Alpe del Macagno**, near one of the numerous small lakes which lie there — here is made an excellent cheese. — From that *Alpe* one descends more rapidly to the torrent, then the road proceeds very picturesquely along it, now on one bank now on the other, as far as the village **Peccia**, where to the left a road diverges leading to Gressoney, by the *Colle* and *Hospice of Valdobbia*. The road continues to descend along the torrent Vogna, by **Cà di Janzo** etc. until it joins at **Riva Valdobbia** the carriage-road for **Alagna**. At **Cà di Janzo** is a plain but clean Alpine Inn — the traveller can board there.

### Bocchetta del Croso.

234 From **Piedicavallo** to **Alpe Finestre**, see N. 180.

Soon after having crossed this *Alpe*, one leaves to the right the road going to *Giassit* and *Cima Bo* and one proceeds ascending direct to the north, as far as the lower part of the crest, which forms the **Bocchetta del Croso** — close to it is a but.

Then the road descends to the left as far as the

torrent, which it crosses near the **Alpe Toso** and afterwards it always follows its course, to the left, passing the Alpi **Mazzucco**, **Dosso**, **Sorba**, etc.

Near the **Alpe Mazzucco** is a quarry of fine white marble, but the place where it lies renders the excavation difficult.

Through luxuriant pasture-land and pine-woods, always keeping to the left side of the torrent *Sorba*, the road reaches the picturesque village of **Rassa** and, becoming a carriage-road, proceeds as far as **Piode** on the bank of the torrent *Sesia*, where one meets the road to **Alagna**.

### **Bocchetta della Boscarola.**

From **Biella** and from **Andorno** to the **Piana del Ponte**, see N. 129.

At *Piana del Ponte* the mule-path ascends to the <sup>285</sup> north, passing over some undulations of the ground, and crosses the stream **Caramala**, close to the **Alpe** of the same name. It proceeds passing near the Alpi **Sella**, **Tenche** and **Dolca** and descends to cross the torrent *Dolca* over a stone-bridge. It turns off for a short distance to the east, to wind round a ridge and ascends on the right bank of the torrent, the narrow little vale of *Stramba*, where, even in autumn, snow is lying, which comes down from the precipitous Alpine flanks. Passing near many other Alpi, the path ascends steeply to the **Bocchetta della Boscarola** which is cut out at the end of the valley.

Here the mule-path descends to the opposite side, skirting the Alpi **Ruderi**, **Brincata** and **Oro del Torno**, then, plunging into woods, passes near the **Chapel of St. Carlo** and descends rapidly to the torrent *Sesia* and thence to **Scopello**.

From the valley of the *Strona* the ordinary road passes over the **Bocchetta di Luvera** (N. 193) whence, <sup>286</sup>

by a path which turns to the west and runs just under the crest of *Arsimonia*, it reaches the **Colle di Moncerchio** (N. 191) and continuing to skirt, to the north, *Monte Marca*, joins the **Bocchetta di Sessera**, the road above described.

One can shorten the distance descending from the *Bocchetta di Luvera* more towards the torrent *Sessera* and then skirting half way up the mountain the northern steep and rocky flank of the *Rocca d'Arsimonia*. Under the *Colle di Moncerchio* the slope becomes less steep and the path descends to cross the *Sessera*, at a kilometer from the junctions of this torrent with the *Dolca*, joining at the *Alpe Sella*, the road issuing from the *Piana del Ponte*, which has been already described.

This cross-road is not much recommended, the pass being difficult and rocky.

- 287 From **Coggiola** one ascends to the small borgata of **Castagnea**, passes over the **Bocchetta di Caulera** and **Stavello** (N. 198) and skirting the *St. Bernardo* to the north, one descends to pass over the torrent *Sessera* at the **Ponte di Babbiera**. Close by there is now in operation a quarry of "Corindone", (an emery stone). Ascending for some distance the course of the torrent *Sessera*, one leaves, to the right, the **Alpe Barbero** and the road proceeds to the north, as far as **Alpe Masucchio**, the steep ridge which projects into the valley. It then descends a little skirting its western side and after having passed near many alpi, crosses the stream *Stramba* and joins the ordinary road between the *Alpe Collette* and *Stramba*.

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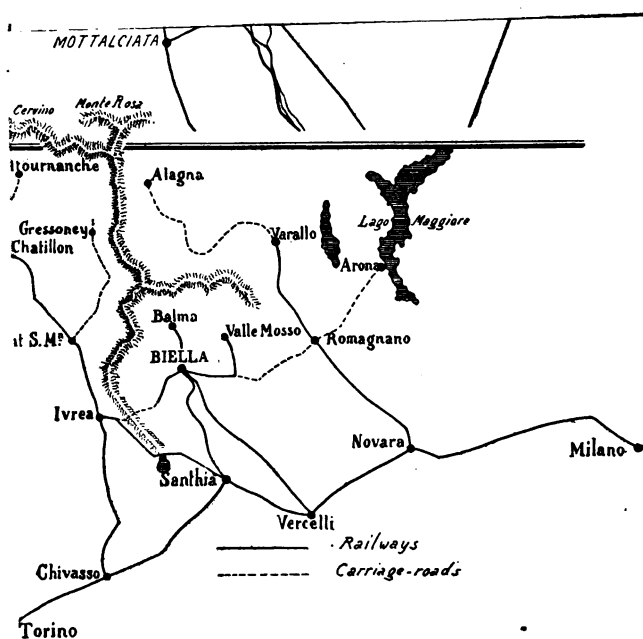
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